[Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.]

THE Nonconformist.

THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION

Vol. XXX.—New Series, No. 1310.] LONDON: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1870. Price { UNSTAMPED.... 5d. / STAMPED 5½

CONTENTS.

Ecclesiastical Affairs:
Church Reform Union 1229
Ecclesiastical Notes .. 1229
Disestablishment of the English Church 1230
Proposed Interchange of Pulpits 1230
Churches and Chapels on Christmas Day .. 1231
Chapel Cases in the Law Courts 1232
Religious and Denominational News 1233
Correspondence:
The Evangelical Churches of France 1233
The War:
Another Sortie from Paris 1233
The Impending Bombardment 1234
The Campaign on the Loire 1234
Inside Paris 1234
Reported French Defeat in the North 1235
Six English Vessels Sunk by the Prussians 12 5
The War in Other Quarters ..... 12'5
Notes and Incidents .. 1236
Extracts from Correspondence.. 1236
Mr. Henry Richards, M.P., and his Constituents 1237
The Education Act 1239
Postscript 1239
Leading Articles:
Summary 1240
Continuance of the War 1240
Mr. Richard, M.P., at Merthyr 1241
The Opium Traffic in China 1241
Children's Dinners.... 1241
Foreign and Colonial.... 1242
Foreign Miscellany 1243
Literature:
Brief Notices 1244
More Children's Books 1245
Court, Official, and Personal News 1245
The Eclipse of the Sun 1245
Completion of the Mont Cenis Tunnel 1245

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

CHURCH REFORM UNION.

Under the above heading, a prospectus has just lately been issued which we take to be a tolerably sure prognostic of the coming end. It has come out under the auspices of the Right Hon. W. Cowper-Temple, M.P., the Rev. W. H. Freemantle, M.A., and Sir George Young, Bart. It opens with assertions such as the following:—"The Church of England is, in fact, exceedingly powerful, and cannot be fairly described as exhibiting symptoms of decline It is strong in all the elements which give stability to an institution in this country, and, it may also be reasonably contended, in its power to adapt itself to the peculiar circumstances of the present time. In theology and spiritual life, as well as in historical dignity and the attributes of social respectability, the Church has the undisputed lead in England. The more important of the other religious bodies, so far as they are in movement, are inclining towards the Church rather than separating themselves more widely from it. It may well be, therefore, that the Church of England is too national, too much a part of the nation's life, to be successfully denationalised." Still, "the Church of England has, by universal acknowledgment, many weak points." "It is proposed, therefore, to invite loyal Churchmen, without distinction of party, to co-operate in seeking Church Reform along these three lines. A. The admission of the laity—in parishes, to begin with—to a defined share of power in Church matters. B. The removal of impolitic restraints. C. The promotion of practical improvements." The names of the gentlemen who have already been nominated to the Council of the Church Reform Union are chiefly those of well known Broad Churchmen, and we need hardly add, the prospectus of the new Association is written with great ability and singular moderation of spirit.

We foresaw many years since that Liberationists would have to fight, probably their last battle, with Liberal Churchmen. They stand in the same relation to the separation of the Church from the State, as the Whigs stood, some thirty years ago, to the Repeal of the Corn Laws and the principles of Free Trade. They are Erastians—that is, they desire all Church matters to be administered under the authority of the State. They fear, not without some reason, the narrow and exclusive proclivities of the clerical body, when freed from the restraints of Parliamentary law. Their theological prepossessions, if they have any, are held with no very tenacious grasp. They are Comprehensionists in theory, and we are bound in justice to admit that their leading men act out, as far as the law will admit of it, the principles of comprehension in their daily life. The prospectus of which we have spoken, proposes, for instance, not merely the discontinuance of the use of the Athanasian Creed in the services of the Church, but "the abolition of clerical subscription," believing that "the effective security for the orthodox profession of clergymen lies in the compulsory use of the Liturgical formularies, and, when these are defied, in the legal appeal to the doctrinal standards of the Church." But we have no objection to admit that nearly all the measures of reform which the Union seeks to accomplish—and they are many as well as considerable—are such as would improve the Church of England as a spiritual institution, though we have grave doubts as to some of them in their application to a State Church.

The first question which occurs to us, however, touching this pleasant-looking scheme is, Why is it now proposed? The evils it is devised to remove, have long existed, have been sensibly felt, have been loudly denounced. Why has there not been, until now, a serious effort to get rid of them? It represents a change of front in presence of the enemy. It is evidently intended to strengthen the Establishment, notwithstanding a conviction that it is "too national, too much a part of the nation's life, to be successfully denationalised." We do not call in question the right of these gentlemen to save what it is their main object to save, by any means which may commend themselves to their judgment. But we take leave to draw our own inferences. When we observe sailors in anticipation of a storm throwing overboard the heaviest items of their cargo, we usually come to the conclusion that they have no very confident faith in the seaworthiness of their ship. We fancy that even these Liberal Churchmen see more dangers ahead than they are willing to acknowledge. They say, indeed, that "the demand for equality has gained strength by continual successes, and the sentiment that no privileges ought to be suffered to exist, but such as can distinctly justify themselves, is trying the foundations of all old institutions. The bonds which tie Church and State together, are also apt to seem like fetters, the disruption of which would set free precious energies of which we now lose the benefit. If the Church of England were a weak body, or were steadily losing moral strength, these feelings would not be long in bringing about a separation like that which is now being effected in Ireland."

The second question which occurs to us on the perusal of this programme of reform is, Why the projectors of it do not clearly distinguish in their own minds, as well as explain to their friends and anticipated members, first, what good there is which they are seeking to effect, that would not be almost insensibly effected by the disestablishment of the Church of England, and, secondly, what evil would befal the Church of England, *qua* a Church of Christ, if it ceased to be a Church established by law? Why this anxiety to add the force of human law to any embodiment and representation of Divine love? Why continue, at the risk of many spiritual disadvantages, the obvious injustice of using common resources for the maintenance of an institution which, neither in the extent of its members, nor in the scope of its operation, nor in the benefits it confers, is other than sectarian—the largest of the denominations, it may be—but only a denomination at best? Whether the Church of England be a weak or a strong body, we do not discuss—but we affirm that the position in which it is placed is one that inflicts palpable injustice upon all other religious bodies, besides being one that is at variance with the obvious spirit of the Gospel. Is there any conceivable reform which the Union can effect that will remedy this essential wrong? The Church of England is strong—but is the Establishment, *i.e*, the political ascendancy given by law to the Anglican Church, stronger or weaker than it was ten years ago? Does it gain or lose moral strength by clinging to the privileges conferred upon it by the State? In a day or two the Church of Ireland will become legally, as it has always been really, denationalised. Has it yet lost anything that a Church should covet? Does it seem likely to lose anything? We shall see. Meanwhile, we venture to predict that the Free Church of Ireland, viewed alongside of the Established Church of England, will outrun the latter in all the reforms which Liberal Churchmen on this side St. George's Channel are most anxious to promote.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

It has often been said, but by Churchmen more than by Dissenters, that the Bishops are but blind guides of the Church. Ardent and sincere Churchmen, whose number is probably much smaller than is generally suspected, are almost the only persons who can testify to the thorough accuracy of this remark. It may, however, be very true in one sense and very untrue in another. We can imagine that a Bishop may be a very wise and capable adviser in local difficulties, and that, occupying such a position, he may prove to be an enlightened guide. In questions of national politics, and especially in questions which demand some statesmanship for their settlement, a Bishop is nearly always the worst possible guide. He is a man who has grown up in a narrow and exclusive rut; who has never been anything but a sectarian, and who looks at the whole world as revolving round the interests of his own small and exclusive denomination. Now and then there arises a man who can see beyond the confines of his own order and his own sect. Such a man was Archbishop Whateley, and such a man is the present Bishop of St. David's, Dr. Connop Thirlwall. There is, now, another bishop who seems to have something of the statesman in his intellectual composition. This is Dr. Harvey Goodwin, the present Bishop of Carlisle. Dr. Goodwin appears to be able to see beyond the existing condition of ecclesiastical affairs. He can forecast their tendency, and, being able to do so, can also, we should judge, suggest measures which may be competent to meet any inevitable contingency. In a pastoral letter, addressed to the clergy of his diocese, Dr. Goodwin has referred to the question of disestablishment, upon which he writes as follows:—

I cannot shut my eyes to the possibility of a great change coming sooner or later over the status of the Church of England; she may possibly cease to be an Established Church, in some important particulars she may perhaps already be said to have done so; and it

our own days changes, as we know from experience, are made so rapidly, that it is well at least to be prepared for that which may take place very soon. As a mere matter of opinion, I do not think that the change, if it be made at all, will be made soon; and weighing advantages and disadvantages against each other, I devoutly trust that the status of the Church of England as an Established Church may long be maintained; but looking to that which is possible, and which many thoughtful persons deem probable, I regard it as highly desirable that we should accustom ourselves to a kind of action which in the case of a disestablished Church becomes an absolute necessity. It is well to practise swimming before the craft becomes a wreck.

This is another testimony to the depth to which the idea of disestablishment has sunk into the ecclesiastical mind, usually the dullest and most obtuse of all minds.

The *Times* publishes an appeal, dated Norwich, from "J. Crompton, a Dissenter against his will," addressed to the clergy and laity of the Established Church in that city. The letter, which is said to be from a "Nonconformist minister of Norwich," is confined to the subject of the Athanasian Creed, and informs the clergy and laity of the city of a good deal which, we dare say, they knew long ago. The point of it, however, is that the existence of the Athanasian Creed is the one obstacle to Mr. Crompton's "reunion" with the Church. This, of course, should be sufficient for all Churchmen and Nonconformists to agitate for its repeal. It may be a good or a bad creed; fictitious or not fictitious, a creed which Athanasius himself would have abjured or have clasped to his heart; but if Mr. Crompton can only be gained over to the Church, ought it not to be forthwith repealed? These remarks may possibly not come under Mr. Crompton's observation, but we daresay that those of a Church contemporary, which is not generally seen by our own readers, may have been noticed by him. The *Church Review* says, upon Mr. Crompton's letter:—

The *Times* has thought proper to publish a protest against the Athanasian Creed issued by a Dissenting minister, as a sort of encyclical or œcumenical to the whole clergy and laity of the Church of England, and signed "J. Crompton." This gentleman declares that he is a Dissenter against his will, and avows that the Athanasian Creed is the only obstacle to his seeking orders in the Church. The only comment we shall make is this, that we observe in Mr. Crompton's protest a lamentable want of that spirit of submission which is alone the adequate motive for seeking refuge in the Church from the ways of schism. He assumes with supreme confidence that the Creed "damns" this, that, and the other, and almost everybody else—although he must know that many grave and competent authorities deny the truth of the statement. The meaning of Mr. Crompton's protest, therefore, is simply this: According to my interpretation of this Creed it is an absolute bar to my seeking orders in the Church of England, therefore let it be taken away. But is there not another course open to Mr. Crompton? Can he not content himself with lay communion? If he cannot, then it is clear he knows nothing of the real privilege of belonging to the Church, and perhaps it is fortunate for the Church that the Athanasian Creed keeps him out.

There is a welcome to a willing disciple!

This as regards one would-be Churchman, but it has been known to all who know anything of the Nonconformist ministry, that there have always existed men in its ranks who ought to have "gone over to the Church" years before they did go, just as there exist amongst the Established clergy of the present day some hundreds of men who ought, as it may seem, long since to have left the Establishment. Consciences, however, cannot be judged by any but a Superhuman Power, nor can any but such a Power tell, or, we are afraid, fully appreciate, the mental and moral difficulties of men who, as it may seem, should, but do not, change their ecclesiastical position. We can only hope, for those who have accomplished that change, that they will find, elsewhere, a wider scope for Christian activity and personal Christian power than they have found in their old ranks. So, when we read in the *Church Review* that of the large number of clergymen ordained on Sunday week, five per cent. had previously been Dissenting ministers, and twenty-three per cent. the sons of Dissenting parents, all we can say, and all we have a right to say, is, that we hope they have all found their right position and right duty. The same thing has gone on from generation to generation. It was remarked upon by Watts and Doddridge, and, a generation later, by Towgood; but the remarkable circumstance is that Nonconformity has, notwithstanding these individual conversions (we do not care to use the more offensive term) gone on increasing in numbers, power, influence, and prosperity. We dare say, therefore, that it will not lose by these remarkable "ordinations."

How wonderfully fast a righteous principle, when once fairly put before the people, grows and goes on growing! Really, it seems that after the first seeds have been sown and the first flowers exhibited, nothing more needs to be done! The winds of heaven seem to carry the fructifying principle everywhere and in all directions. One of the last things which we expected was the realised fact recorded in our last number, that a majority of the Fellows of Cambridge had voted for the extension of the Tests Abolition Bill to clerical fellowships. The exclusion of those fellowships, in the measure of last year, was due to an understanding with the Government, that, if it would bring in the Tests Abolition Bill, which was subsequently brought in, and use its influence to pass it, such a compromise as was indicated by this exclusion would be honourably observed. The Government did bring in the Bill, and did not use its influence to pass it. We all made a blunder in relying upon it. Like every other attempt at a temporary settlement, the scheme failed, and it has been for good that it did fail. Henceforward, we have no alternative but to insist upon the abolition of tests without any exception, and, least of all, the clerical.

Mr. Gladstone's letter upon the subject of the Pope's—what shall we say?—disabilities, is exciting increased attention. The Presbyterians have now pronounced strongly against it, and, in a letter to the *Record*, the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird asks all Protestants and Englishmen to consider the question. We have no doubt that they *will* consider it.

THE DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENGLISH CHURCH.

The *Scotsman* objects to Mr. Miall's proposed motion on various grounds, which the *English Independent* examines and confutes. The case of Ireland is regarded by our northern contemporary as exceptional, the Establishment there being only the Church of a small minority. But the *Independent* replies that the mistake and injustice of establishing Churches for minorities having been once admitted, it is impossible to justify them on any reckoning of the relative sizes of the separate sects. A church that cannot be shown to be the Church of the majority of the whole people, and to have a good title to be called National, must, on the very principle that was applied to Ireland, be disestablished. The *English Independent* thus replies to the other arguments of the *Scotsman*—

"The internal condition of the Church of England" is assumed by the *Scotsman* to be highly satisfactory. It is full of zeal and activity, and as for its divisions—have not these always existed? If they are more conspicuous now than usual, that is only because the various schools exist in greater vigour. "The whole principle and system of an Established Church may be bad; but the existence and toleration of those divisions is an amelioration, not an aggravation. They render the Church to a large extent really national, by enabling it to embrace several, it may fairly be said most, if not of the sects, at least of the opinions of the sects, existing in the nation." This is the view of the Broad Churchman, whose dream of perfection is the quiet acquiescence of every religious sect in the mild regulation and generous pay of a State department for religious worship. But that anybody supposes the fierce antagonism of parties within the Church contributes to its strength, we really cannot believe. One party in the Church is actually calling for disestablishment, and the manifest immorality of contradictory schools ministering at the altars of the same Church, is notoriously inclining honest men of all parties to anticipate disestablishment as a relief.

The present state of public opinion is supposed by the *Scotsman* to be rather favourable to Establishments than otherwise. The Church of England has proved its strength by many recent facts, of which the elections to the School Boards, and especially the election in Birmingham itself, are quoted as proofs. The Birmingham case, however, is certainly misquoted for any such purpose. The Birmingham Liberals made a great mistake in attempting to elect the whole of the board with the cumulative vote, but the returns show that they might easily have carried ten out of the fifteen if they had used better tactics. We have no wish at all to deny that the Church of England is very strong. It has a multitude of adherents who would prove themselves very shabby Churchmen indeed if, since in nearly all these elections it has come to be a mere question of denominational preference, they did not vote for a Churchman as a member of a school board rather than a Dissenter. But we believe, whether rightly or not time will show, that there has been within the last few years a very rapid growth of opinion indeed in favour of freedom in religion as in all other matters. Monopolies are all condemned by public opinion, and that of an Established Church among the rest. The *Scotsman*, however, sees a signal proof of the unripeness of the public mind on this question in the debates on the Education Bill last session:—"On the question of religious endowments, one-half of the English Dissenters were this year disastrously though honourably defeated, whilst the other half more disastrously and not so honourably deserted and submitted." Pity 'tis, 'tis true. But the question of religious endowments was put before the House of Commons last session in the most abstract form that it could be made to assume, and the question was fought on grounds the least favourable for the voluntaries. Some of the most zealous supporters of the Liberation Society itself hold so strongly to the opinion that any education of neglected children which is not religious is mischievous, that they supported Mr. Forster's scheme in preference to any general system of secular schools. The divisions on the Education Bill afforded no indication whatever of the feeling of the country as to the propriety of continuing the endowment of the Episcopalian sect, and making it dominant in England.

It seems to us most proper that such a motion as Mr. Miall contemplates should now be made in the House of Commons. It is but just both to ourselves and to our opponents that a calm and full statement of the objections to an Establishment should be formally laid before the Legislature. We anticipate from such a step the removal of much prejudice and ignorant hostility to those who are seeking the separation of Church and State. It will be invaluable as an educational lesson. But a debate in the House of Commons is not quite the same thing as "a new crusade against Established Churches." No one at present proposes to beat up all the forces that can be got together against Establishments. The fiery cross is not to be sent to all the Nonconformist chapels and schoolrooms in the country. The immediate success of Mr. Miall's motion is anticipated by none, and it would be impolitic to make any demonstration till the end were more manifestly in sight. Nonconformists will not hide their convictions, and will be ready to take their place in the front of the battle whenever it may be necessary, but they have no desire to hasten prematurely even the downfall of Establishments. They would much prefer that they should be given up by their own friends on a conviction of their untenability than that they should fall under the violent assault of the foe.

The *Rock* (Evangelical Church paper), being prepared to demonstrate that the downfall of the Church Establishment would be the downfall of the National Protestantism, cannot regard with indifference the recent adoption by "The Liberation Society" of "a more aggressive policy" in the assault upon the Church of England.

The present crisis is peculiarly perilous. At no period whatever, since the Revolution, has the national Protestantism been so imminently, so irretrievably imperilled. And even in 1688, with a Popish King upon the throne, and (the inevitable consequence) Popish tyranny trampling under foot all law both in Church and State, the peril was trivial indeed compared with that which exists at this hour. For then Popery was not a power in the State; it had no foothold in the Church; and, whether regarded in its political or in its religious aspect, it was confronted by the invincible and hereditary hostility of the great mass of the people. But what do we see now? The Imperial Government overawed by the menaces of the Papal faction; Popish bishops congratulating their clergy on crowds of proselytes made ready to their hand; and the masses of the people so far leavened with Popish proclivities that in the ordinary intercourse of society no man may venture to speak the truth of Popery without incurring the stigma which brands him as a bigot or a fool. Nor is this the worst. In the last great crisis of the country's faith it needed no argument to convince the nation that the cause of the Established Church was the cause of the Protestant religion. With very few exceptions, and those too ignoble to be influential, the entire body of Protestant Dissenters eagerly espoused the cause of the Church as the national bulwark of the common faith. Speaking of the Church for which the first Dissenters gave God thanks, we are told that—"The immense funds which it swallows up, the servile spirit which it generates, the sympathy which it extends to all illiberal institutions, the impediments which it places before the course of just legislation, the barrier which it opposes to the intellectual and social progress of the people, call upon all patriots and philanthropists to labour for its downfall. But all these evils are reduced to insignificance compared with the spiritual mischief which it works on the souls of men, a mischief deep as hell, and durable as eternity. Now, Dissenters are the only individuals who are the remedy for this prodigious evil. They are the salt of the land."

Before this language is dismissed as the mere raving of a madman, it should be remembered that there is a method in this madness. This virulence of malignity is not without a purpose. That purpose is to "awaken a sentiment which will strengthen, swell, and spread until it has swept every State-Church as a secular institution from the statute-book of this kingdom." And to accomplish that purpose, Dissenters are not ashamed to declare that the "National Establishment of our religion," so far from being a cause of thanksgiving to God, is a rapacious and cruel tyranny, which "works on the souls of men a mischief deep as hell, and durable as eternity." Let him that readeth understand. And let it be remembered that, after a crusade of thirty years on principles such as these, it is now found that this is not enough, and the principle of the new crusade is unblushingly announced "a more aggressive policy."

THE PROPOSED INTERCHANGE OF PULPITS.

The following is the paper read on this subject at the recent meeting of the Church Reform Union by the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, B.A.:—

I accepted the invitation to address a few words to the Conference on the subject under discussion from the Nonconformist point of view, with great heartiness. The object has my entire sympathy, and I think I may say would command the sympathy generally of the Nonconformist churches. And that not altogether, or chiefly, for our own sakes. We dwell happily and work happily among our brethren, and find our field of activity wide enough—alas! too wide. But rather because a great act of public justice, while it is good for those who profit by it, and better those who offer it, is a still larger gain to the whole community.

I stand here to-night in a novel and somewhat difficult position. I am not only a Nonconformist, but as some present know, a strong Nonconformist; believing as thoroughly in Independency as any one present believes in the Established Church; and I am addressing an assembly of Churchmen on what is after all a Church matter, fully conscious that my Independency must seem to many of them a strange perversity, while some, I fear, if they knew how heart-deep it was, would regard me ecclesiastically as wholly "given over to a reprobate mind." Still, before you, sir, and the liberal and generous men whom I see around me, I am persuaded that I can speak freely, and indeed that that is what you ask at my hands.

This is a question, let me say, which we should never have raised or urged on your attention. It has grown up in the bosom of the Establishment, because Churchmen, in growing numbers, feel that there is a great wrong to be righted, and that they must put their hands to the work if they are to hold themselves forth with good conscience as the servants and ministers of the righteous Lord. Were I a Churchman, could I find room within your boundaries for principles and modes of action which seem to me as sacred as

Christianity, I would throw my whole soul into this and kindred movements; I would give myself no rest until the policy of the Act of Uniformity was openly condemned as foolish, and branded as wicked, and what may be possible of its evil work undone.

It is not for me to dwell on the position and influence of the Free Churches of our country. Your meeting to-night is an honest recognition that there is something, at any rate, in their life and their work for England, to which you would not be willingly in declared hostility. I say nothing about comparative numbers. I care nothing about it one way or the other. I always shut my ears when men count numbers in connection with spiritual questions. Numbers never settled anything in this world which was worth the settling. We have established our position in England, and our claim for fraternal recognition, in a more excellent way. The broad fact is patent that there is outside the Anglican Church a great breadth of Christian energy and vitality busy in the service of the community, in contending for its liberties, in teaching its ignorance, in ministering to its poor, the Christianity of which is recognised by all discerning and liberal minds. Putting aside entirely our personal interests, it would be a sore evil for the country at large if that fact, patent to all, were not frankly recognised by the clergy of the Established Church. It would be simply shameful, and to the last degree detrimental to Christianity, if, while the Church of England is holding forth overtures of friendship to Churches abroad which are eaten up by superstitions, one-half of which have paganism at their root, she were to refuse all commerce with Churches and ministers whose Christian character and work she cannot help recognising, and which lie within the sacred circle of the same national life. We know each other, we honour each other, we read each other's books, and are instructed, stimulated, and strengthened by each other's words; we join hands in a thousand schemes for the good of the community—and I say that something greater than either the Established or the Free Churches will suffer grievous harm and loss, if such a measure of frank recognition of each other's ministry be long postponed.

And now let me say a word on the matter itself.

The first thing which strikes me from our point of view is the importance of a thorough reciprocity. We venture to think that it is even more important that you should minister in our pulpits than that we should minister in yours. We know a good deal more about you than you know about us. We think that if you were to visit us, and "see our affairs, and how we do," there would be something more genial in the portrait which you paint of us when you are describing the victims of the voluntary principle. We know you better, because you are more visible. We have been driven into corners; time was when we were glad to hide ourselves from sight. We have lived but a struggling life, cut off from your universities and your public activities, and I say frankly that I think there is something deeply ungenerous in the reproach that we cannot yet stand side by side with you in the front ranks of scholarship and the service of the State. But you have had the broad theatre to yourselves. As Englishmen we know both you and your ways. We think it a great matter that you should come among us, speak to our people, teach them what your higher culture and discipline have taught you,—something, perhaps, of the "mildness and sweet reasonableness" which our rudeness misses; while we are ready in turn to impart to your people what we have been learning, perhaps in as divine ways. But reciprocity must be the soul of the movement, if it is to have any high and lasting results.

I pass on to the next point, which is not without its gravity. I see that certain things are to be done "under proper safeguards." Mr. Winterbotham spoke some months ago of "a watchful jealousy" as to some extent characteristic of the Nonconformist attitude. He spoke most justly. Such things as the Act of Uniformity make "watchful jealousy" for ages. To a people wronged and down-trodden, as we were not so long ago, this jealousy is the outer defence of honour. It is the legacy to us of generations of unequal conflict, of heavy sacrifices and sharp pains. I am persuaded that those by whom I am surrounded are not the men to treat this otherwise than with tenderness and respect. But any such jealousy would be misplaced here. These are real difficulties which it becomes us to recognise; it is natural that "safeguard" should be part of such a scheme as this.

Of course, it will be understood that the formal difficulties are all on one side, and that not our side. I, for instance, am free to preach and ready to preach for any man, be he Jew, Turk, or infidel, if he will let me say what is in my heart. But the clergy are under legal disabilities in the matter. They are doing their best to get them removed on their side; let us consider justly what difficulties our constitution and organisation, or no organisation, may offer to them on ours.

"Nonconformist" is a vague and large word. A clergyman of the Church of England defines himself and his beliefs within certain limits, by his position, unless my friend Mr. Voysey succeeds in his appeal, and then I fear the limits are nowhere. You know at once, within certain limits, what you are dealing with when you mention the word clergyman. A Nonconformist does not define himself except by a negation. You know that you are not dealing with a State-Churchman, but beyond that you may have a Ranter, a Mormon, a Southcottian, to treat with, for anything that the word Nonconformist reveals. I have always felt that Nonconformists were not a little unjust to the Government, in their complaints that, as regards marriages, for instance, their ministers are not put in the same position with the clergy of the Established Church. "But what is a Nonconformist minister?" the Government may fairly answer. "We know what an Independent, a Baptist, a Methodist is; and should be prepared to treat their ministers with all confidence. But on what principle could we treat with them as classes, which would not apply equally to the ministers of the obscurest and most fanatical sects in the land?"

And the difficulty is a real one, I imagine, in such a matter as this. You need some discrimination of Nonconformists. Nay, I will go farther. Our distinctive principle as Independents—a very old one, and, we think, a very noble one—offers a difficulty to liberal Churchmen, who may be willing to hold forth a friendly hand to us. What is an Independent minister? We can give no sort of guarantee of the style, education, and bearing of the men whom we comprehend under the common name. Some of our own people are a good deal troubled at this, and are full of devices for restraining or controlling the liberty of which it is the result. For myself, I confess freely that it does not trouble me much. I accept liberty with all its anomalies and difficulties, and expect to find myself sometimes with strange comrades as an Independent minister of the Gospel. I saw it pithily stated in a leading article the other day, to our confusion, that "any half-dozen nobodies may meet together and form an Independent church." That, no doubt, offers a difficulty to those who would meet with us in such relations as these. But let me not be misunderstood. I believe in the principle of which this may be the outcome, thoroughly. I believe it to be the Church principle to which we are all coming in time. Of these nobodies who can meet and form a church I say, in the name of truth and liberty, why should they not? If anything seriously moves them to it, the very best thing they can do is to form the church, and see what will come of it. Men learn by their faults, follies, and failures as much as by their successes. Nay, more. Which are the best lessons of our lives? We are fond of making excellent arrangements to spare men these chances of failure, and to keep them steady in even paths. But perhaps the thing which heaven ordained for them was to try for themselves, and fail, and try again, gaining true wisdom at last with time and pain. And about these nobodies; who are the nobodies, who are the somebodies in this region? 120 nobodies once met in an upper chamber in Jerusalem, and before long they had revolutionised the world. A smaller company of nobodies once met in the manor-house of Scrooby, on the borders of Lincolnshire, and formed the first modern Independent church. Out of them came forth the policy and character of the United States of America. The only possible way of sifting the somebodies from the nobodies is by letting them all try what they can accomplish. The freest play of power for every man is what is demanded in this highest region; and I believe that it was the purpose of God to leave all men a free field of trial on the high level of this church. We have not got to the end yet of what the nobodies will do for the world. It is then with no doubt of the truth or virtue of our Independent principle that I recognise the difficulty which it presents to Churchmen, in meeting us in this matter otherwise than as they know us as individual ministers of the Gospel.

Clergymen will have to select men with whom they will feel at liberty to exchange pulpits. Probably they will find it needful to obtain the consent of their bishop. That would be no trouble to us; it would be a private arrangement between them and their ecclesiastical superior, which we, who are in the dark as to the virtue of episcopacy in these days, are hardly competent to criticise. What I think we should greatly deprecate would be anything like a list of Nonconformist ministers who might appear to be *quasi*-licensed to preach in Anglican pulpits. We should refuse to occupy a position so invidious with respect to our brethren, who may be poorer in culture, speech, and manners, but in every other way more earnest, self-devoted, and faithful ministers of Christ than ourselves.

There is one other point on which I must say a word. It may seem uncalled for, but I feel bound to say it. I earnestly warn those who are promoting this righteous and liberal movement, against the very natural impression that those of us who are prepared to meet them half way and zealously co-operate with them are nearer than their brethren to the principle of the Established Church. I am persuaded that you will find the most cordial fraternal fellowship in this matter, from those among us who are most firmly assured that Independency is of God. I do not mean simply by this that it has apostolic warrant. It has that and much more. Many things are of God in the Church, in your Church, and in ours, of which the apostles never dreamed. I call that "of God" in churches, and that alone, which has the force of truth, the fire of life, and the manifest witness of the Holy Ghost.

CHURCHES AND CHAPELS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

A reporter of the *Daily Telegraph*, who made the round of a number of churches on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, says that a majority of metropolitan churches were elaborately decorated with flowers. He remarks:—

In many cases the transition from the Vigil to the Festival of the Nativity is marked with an early evening service, unless the church is advanced enough to have a "late celebration." In a few cases there are both. Strangely enough, the Roman Catholics seem to have discontinued, in a great degree, their "midnight mass" on Christmas Eve, just in proportion as those who would be very angry at being called "Protestants" have taken up the practice. We use the term without wishing to be offensive, and simply to avoid the long periphrasis of "the Anglican branch of the Established Church." It has been rumoured that the present Archbishop of Westminster rather discourages midnight masses in his diocese, as being found to lead to irregularities. Possibly no such objection has been discovered to lie against those of the Church of England; for a large proportion of the Ritualistic churches have adopted the practice.

The reporter's first visit was to St. Andrew's, Wells-street, which, though once reputed "High," has been somewhat left behind in the recent rapid advance of Ritualistic churches. St. Andrew's now depends on the excellence of its music rather than on any innovating or sensational practices, for drawing together those vast congregations which render such frequent repetitions of its services necessary. From five o'clock on Christmas Eve to seven on Christmas evening there were no fewer than nine services at St. Andrew's; and at those which are choral it is not too much to say that the musical arrangements equal, if they do not surpass, those of any church in London. St. Andrew's was slenderly but tastefully decorated. The chancel rails were picked out with variegated holly leaves and red berries in a way that must have cost infinite trouble; whilst the rail-heads were adorned with bunches of winter flowers. On the altar were the choicest exotics, and a cross of camellias decorated the pulpit. A large congregation assembled for the five o'clock service, nearly all of the good old-fashioned "Tractarian" school — gray-headed men, who were "Puseyites" before Ritualism was thought of. At St. Mary Magdalene's, Munster-square, he found the Rev. Mr. Stuart in full eucharistic vestments, surrounded by an assistant priest and seven acolytes in scarlet cassocks and thin short surplices, saying "Mass." The church was fragrant with the fumes of incense, and was handsomely decorated. Two huge candelabra of lighted candles flanked the altar; and there were two groups of three candles, also lighted, on the holy table itself. During Communion the choir gave a florid Roman Catholic hymn-tune, which used to be a favourite long years ago, when Father Faber lectured at what is now the Charing-cross Theatre. The hymn is called "Father of our fathers"; and the refrain of the eucharistic hymn at St. Mary Magdalene's was borrowed from another Romish hymn—

> Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore;
> Oh, makes us love thee more and more.

On Christmas Day morning the reporter visited the church of the same name at Paddington, where the Rev. Richard Temple West has made rapid advances during the past years. St. Mary's is remarkable for the richness of its offertories, and for the transitional character of its vestments. Whilst they are of the correct cut, they are all white, and apparently made of no stiffer material than the old-fashioned surplice. At this church the decorations were confined to the chancel; and a noticeable feature in the service was the publication of the banns of marriage after the Nicene Creed.

The *Daily News* contains a report of a number of Christmas Day services. At St. Paul's Cathedral there was a good attendance. The service was held in the choir, but it was not nearly large enough to accommodate the worshippers, who flowed over into the side aisles and the nave, and occupied a considerable portion of the space usually railed off for the special services. This being a grand festival of the Church, high service was performed. The choir was tastefully, but very simply decorated with holly, and the back of the communion-table with emblamatical devices in the same evergreen. Nothing could be simpler, or in more correct taste, than the decorations and the whole service, and it could not fail to have struck anyone who had been in the habit of attending any of the high Ritualistic churches. At the conclusion of prayers and Litany, the Dean of St. Paul's ascended the pulpit and preached an admirable sermon from the 9th chapter of Isaiah v. 6—"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." The sermon was listened to with marked attention, and at its close the Holy Communion was administered to a considerable number of the congregation by the Very Rev. Dean, assisted by Canon Gregory.

The morning service at Westminster Abbey was, notwithstanding the extreme severity of the weather, attended by a very large congregation, every seat being occupied by about ten o'clock. Choir and transept were both decorated with holly and other evergreens in commemoration of the festival, while the service was, of course, that peculiar to Christmas Day. The sermon was preached by the Dean of Westminster, the text being from Philippians iv. 7—"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." After observing that these words were an expression of the Apostolic form of greetings, which resembled those of the age and time, and were the natural salutations of Eastern nations, whose life was spent in constant apprehension of disturbance from neighbouring tribes, the preacher said peace was to be their own Christmas greeting. It was what they were all thinking of at that season, hoping for, desiring almost with the desire of hunger. It was surely not by accident that Christ's birth took place during the longest and most extensive cessation of war the world had ever seen. The silence and calm of the ancient heathen world when the Saviour came was a likeness of what the Christian world should be, but, alas! had never been. War had hardly ever ceased, and persecutions and controversies more bitter than war seemed even to have derived more force from the fresh life which Christianity brought into the world This Christmas two of the greatest nations of Christendom were engaged in deadly struggle, and there was almost every conceivable misery within and without the capital of the oldest of Christian kingdoms. The very wish and prayer for peace almost died away on the lips as if it were empty mockery. Yet, after all, we must not despair of humanity, and still less of Christianity. There was a new capacity for peace introduced into the world by the birth of Christ, and the whole sentiment of Christian civilisation had been opposed to war in a sense in which heathen civilisation was not; and the Society of Friends, amidst all its eccentricities and extravagances, was a noble witness to the grandest of the Christian longing for peace. The peace of Christ might make even war a blessing, and sweeten the bitter streams of controversy. A charity which walketh with a high step, and stumbleth not at trifles; chivalry in warfare, candour in dispute, forbearance in quarrels—these were the true weapons of the soldier of Christ—these were the sentiments which guarded the peace of our hearts and minds, though all without was strife—these were the Christmas greetings which, not the world, but Christ gave. After remarking that it was not so much about great as about little things that mankind usually quarrelled, the preacher dwelt on the calming and pacify-

ing effect of views of eternity founded on such words as those of the text. Immediately after the sermon the Communion was administered by the Dean, assisted by the clergy. At three o'clock in the afternoon there was another service, and the very rev. gentleman again occupied the pulpit.

Of the High Celebration at St. Alban's, Holborn, it is remarked "that the ceremonial on Christmas Day seemed designed to show that the only result of the Church Association's proceedings against the incumbent will be to make St. Alban's more offensive to them than ever." It was true that there was no incense; that the altar lights were extinguished before the beginning of the Communion service: and that there were possibly some small changes in the gestures of the priest; but the whole was far more like "mass" than it used to be before proceedings were taken against Mr. Mackonochie. In ordinary churches matins constitute the chief feature of the morning service, and the Communion is commonly celebrated in the presence of a handful of persons, without music, or the other accessories of solemn worship. Before the Church Association's interference, the two officers were placed in advanced churches on a level; but now it is becoming common to have a grand choral Communion and matins without music, the very hymn being read verse by verse. On Monday, matins were sung, but only in the accustomed manner, without so much even as Tallis's harmonies; but the second celebration was ushered in by a long procession conducting the Celebrant to the altar. In it was borne the banner of the Church (azure, a saltire or), a banner representing the scene at Bethlehem, another bearing an effigy of the Virgin trampling on the Crescent, and a fourth showing our Lord throned in majesty. A fifth, the banner of the Blessed Sacrament, was displayed in the chancel, but was not borne in procession. The choir sang an ancient Christmas hymn, and on reaching the chancel the proper introit of the day. After the Epistle ordinarily follows the gradual, which consists of a few versicles from the Psalms with alleluias; but on Sunday was performed the solo, "The people that walked in darkness," and chorus, "Unto us a child is born," from the *Messiah*. The sermon was preached by Mr. Stanton. He took his text from the Epistle of the day, on which he discoursed with considerable vivacity. In the course of his remarks, he observed that people who said they could not believe that our Lord was present in the Sacred Host upon the altar, would find their reason equally staggered at the cradle of Christianity, for who would have expected to find the King of kings in a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, because He had been rejected from the inn? Eloquently describing the claims of private judgment and of the heart, he said that it was just because they were the best things a man had to give that Christ asked them of him. One other thing he demanded, and that was adoration. Christ demanded the adoration of His people at His cradle at Bethlehem, at the Cross on Calvary, and at His altar, where he concealed His Presence under the poor, meagre species of bread and wine. Apostrophising our Lord, the rev. gentleman said that but for injustice and tyranny they would have given Him that adoration with lights, with ringing of bells, with incense, and with prostrations; but as it was, they would endeavour to make up for the absence of some Catholic ritual by the addition of sweet music; and he prayed that God would forgive their persecutors, and turn even their success to a blessing. In conclusion, he referred to the quantities of money which the suits had cost the church, and expressed a hope that the congregation would resolve that at all events the poor of Baldwin's-gardens should not be the sufferers. The service was then proceeded with. For the offertory was sung the well-known "Adeste Fideles," treated as an anthem. The "Benedictus qui venit" just before the consecration, and the "Agnus Dei" just after it, were by Roberti. To the last succeeded a very beautiful carol or hymn, the words of which were not distinctly heard; and after the blessing the Hallelujah Chorus from the *Messiah* was finely performed. It would be wrong not to add, that the vast congregation appeared thoroughly to sympathise with the clergy. With hardly an exception, they knelt at the "Et Incarnatus" in the creed, they crossed themselves at the usual places, and they remained patiently on their knees during the long and tedious "Benedictus." As they left the church they were presented with a corrected and enlarged reprint of Mr. Mackonochie's letter to the *Record*, and an excerpt from the Church Association's bill of costs, from which it appeared that in the suit of last year, nearly a hundred pounds was charged on account of three persons who were sent to the church to obtain evidence, and who were paid two guineas a day for their services on Sundays, and half that sum for their services on week-days. Mr. Mackonochie was present in the choir, but he took no part in the services.

At the Metropolitan Tabernacle on Sunday there were no outward signs of Christmas. The Tabernacle wore its usual appearance, only that owing probably to the inclemency of the weather it was not crowded as it ordinarily is, and indeed was not quite full, and the fog was so thick that though the gas was lit, Mr. Spurgeon was hardly discernible, except by those who were near the platform. But his voice rang out clear and distinct as ever. His theme was appropriate—the coming of wise men from the East to Jerusalem to worship Christ on His nativity. The incarnation of the Son of God he described as one of the greatest of all events in the history of the universe. Its actual occurrence was made known to certain shepherds and to certain wise men in the East. The shepherds were little acquainted with books, but the coming of Christ was made known to them, and they hastened to Bethlehem to see the great sight, while the Scribes and Pharisees did not seem to know when Christ was born. In this, and its being made known to the Magi who came from the East, he saw the great mercy and at the same time the sovereignty of God, "who has mercy on whom He will have mercy, and compassion on whom He will have compassion"; and he inculcated on his hearers the lesson that they should imitate the wise men of the East in seeking Jesus diligently, and in evincing an interest in Him. He pointed out that as these wise men had encouragement in that a star went before them, and stood over where the young child was, so had mankind in these days encouragement in seeking after Christ, inasmuch as they had heard the Gospel and lived in a land where the ordinances of God's house were free. In his prayer Mr. Spurgeon besought the Almighty to send men who would preach the Gospel in its purity in the Church of Rome, in the Church of England, "and in other apostate churches"; and in his exposition of the second chapter of Matthew, which he read, he pointed out markedly that it was Jesus who was in the front of the picture, and that, though Mary was present, the wise men did not worship her, but Him. In his sermon he followed out the same line of thought, saying the wise men of the East spoken of were not content with seeing the star that went before them, but they sought to see Christ, and did see Him. There might be many who said, "We have been baptized, and we come to the Sacrament," and thought that that was sufficient for their salvation. Poor souls! they worshipped the star instead of worshipping Christ. Would they be so foolish as to rest on outward ceremonies? God said, "Bring no more vain oblations, incense is an abomination to me." What cared God for outward forms? When He saw a man putting on a white garment in which to preach the Gospel, and performing all kinds of rites and ceremonies, he felt disposed to ask what sort of a God it was that he worshipped. Surely they knew not Jehovah, if they thought that these things were pleasing to Him. He exhorted his hearers to seek Jesus, for in finding Him alone would they secure salvation.

On Sunday morning the Rev. H. Allon preached to his congregation at Union Chapel, Islington, from the words, "Peace on earth; good will towards men." To speak the words upon that bright Christmas morning, he said, must seem a most bitter satire upon Christianity and its history. Either they were a terrific sarcasm upon religion, or they were the severest condemnation of Christian men or women that could be urged by lips or men or angels. Our most superficial thought must at this time turn to the tented hosts shuddering around their camp fires, and pacing their frosty watch mournfully thinking of dear once at home. Few this year would be the Christmas trees, and joyous circles, and merry games in the German Fatherland, for in thousands of German homes the New Year's lights would be altogether put out. Thoughts must come to us in England of devastated French villages, of smouldering homes, and of slaughtered fathers and sons; where last Christmas light-hearted mirth, industrious hoarding, smiling prosperity, and gathered families enjoyed holidays, there were now black ruins, broken hearths, fields sodden with blood, and scattered helpless families fleeing they knew not whither. Thoughts, too, would come of the hundreds of thousands in the beleaguered city so familiar to many of us in its gay and brilliant beauty, its volatile love of pleasure and worldliness, now encompassed by armies avowedly trusting to famine. All this was taking place within a few hours' distance of our peaceful homes and plentiful feasts, and could any of us rejoice in this festival of peace and love without feeling that our immunity and comforts were almost a sin while others were so much suffering? There had been such things before as battle-fields on Christmas Day, but never before had the evil come so near to us, or on so large a scale of terrible slaughter. What did the words of his text mean? Had France, which used to boast herself the defender of the faith; or Germany, where the Reformers were cradled; or England, the abode of an advanced Evangelism; or America, the home of a more pretentious Puritanism, received anything from Christianity to make their peoples more Christ-like? We were bound at length to admit how little the spirit of peace had taken possession of the earth, and we could not sing this Christmas carol without grave musings. A rotten nation was worse than war, and a dull obstinate despotism, which continually ground down its victims, was more to be dreaded than a dozen battle-fields. War might, like the policeman and the magistrate, be a means, terrible though it might be, of saving a nation, and such a war as France was going through was sometimes the only means of renewing national life and health. It would be something gained if the present conflict chastened the vanity, military ambition, and vainglory and frivolity of France, and restored her faith in God; and already there were signs of a wholesome change. And Prussia had already given evidences of the intoxicating effects of her power, and all who cared for right as against wrong must have been led to grieve more than once of late at her utter disregard of the rights of others. Prussia must beware lest the fate of France become her own. The rev. gentleman then proceed to show that in spite of this sad condition of affairs, Christianity had made real progress in the world since the angels sung, "Peace on earth, goodwill towards men."

At Tottenham Court-road Chapel the Rev. L. D. Bevan, LL.B., conducted a simple and cheerful service at the early hour of 7.30 a.m. The old English carol, "Christmas, awake," was sung, with other Christmas hymns, and brief portions of Scripture read, including the Gospel and Epistle for the day. An extempore prayer was offered, followed by the collects for the Nativity and the Epiphany, and a Christmas address occupying about seven minutes was delivered from the text, "Unto you is born," &c. The service was concluded within the hour.

CHAPEL CASES IN THE LAW COURTS.

The case of Dean *v.* Bennett was argued last week in the Court of Chancery, on an appeal from the decree of Vice-Chancellor James. The facts were shortly these. By the trust-deed of a church or congregation of Particular Baptists at Barnoldswick, Yorkshire, it was provided that the minister should be liable to be "forthwith removed" by the "decision, order, or direction" of the church, "made and declared at one meeting, and confirmed and approved at a second meeting to be called for that purpose." It was also provided that all "decisions, orders, and directions" of the church should be made and declared by the male and female members of the church who should have been communicants for six months, or a majority of them present "at a meeting of which notice should have been given publicly" in the old and new chapels, "or in one of them, during Divine worship on Sunday morning," at least four days previously. At a meeting held on the 26th of September, 1868, the question of the dismissal of the then minister, the defendant, Thomas Bennett, was postponed for twelve months. This resolution was not confirmed. A written demand for a scrutiny was served on the defendant on the 28th of September. He did not immediately answer, but he did not refuse, and in the following January expressly acceded. On Sunday, the 18th of October, notice was given in the new chapel, during afternoon service, of a meeting to be held on the following Saturday, for the purpose of bringing charges against and considering the dismissal of the defendant. No notice of the charges was sent or given to the defendant or anybody. The meeting was held, and a resolution was passed that the defendant should be dismissed, and this resolution was confirmed at another meeting on the 31st of October. The bill was filed by the trustees to restrain the defendant from officiating. An injunction was moved for and ordered to stand to the hearing, the plaintiffs' undertaking not to allow any one to preach in the new chapel without the assent of the defendant. In the court below Vice-Chancellor James held the notice to be informal and insufficient, and dismissed the bill. The plaintiffs appealed. The Lord Chancellor entirely agreed with the Vice-Chancellor's decision, and dismissed the bill with costs.

Vice-Chancellor Stuart had before him on Thursday the case of the Rev. John Bruce and others *v.* the Rev. Frederick John Le Cerf. This bill was filed by the trustees and deacons of the Sion Hill Congregational Chapel at West Cowes, to restrain the defendant from acting as minister of the chapel. The chapel belongs to a sect which describes itself as Calvinistic Dissenters of the Independent denomination, and the plaintiff's case was that, according to their universal practice, the general affairs and services were managed and conducted under the superintendence of the communicant members of the Church, with whom the seatholders are occasionally associated. The Vice-Chancellor granted the injunction.

The *Church Herald* announces the recovery of Archdeacon Denison.

PAUPERS' BURIAL FEES.—For several weeks discussions have arisen at the meetings of the Kingsbridge (Devon) Board of Guardians respecting a claim for a fee made by the Rev. F. P. Horton, minister of a Dissenting chapel at Ford, for the burial of a pauper. The guardians contended that a Dissenting minister had no right to claim a fee unless he had performed the ceremony of burial on condition of payment, which in this instance did not appear to have been the case. The Poor Law Board were ultimately consulted, and the reply was read at a meeting on Friday. The letter explained that "this case is only one of service rendered to the guardians. If they applied to the minister of the Dissenting chapel to perform the burial service over the body of the pauper in question, and such minister claimed to be paid for rendering such service, the guardians must pay him a proper compensation. The board considers that the point in this case differs from the fee charged by the incumbent of a parish, who, for this, as for many other spiritual service, must establish a customary right to a fee."

BISHOP GOODWIN ON THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—The Bishop of Carlisle (Dr. Harvey Goodwin) has issued a pastoral letter to the clergy of his diocese, instead of a visitation charge, the ordinary time for holding a visitation of the clergy having been so soon after his appointment to the bishopric that he did not hold one. His lordship makes a comprehensive review of the first year of his episcopate, and in referring to the holding of the first Diocesan Conference in August last, he says:—"I cannot shut my eyes to the possibility of a great change coming sooner or later over the status of the Church of England; she may possibly cease to be an Established Church—in some important particulars she may perhaps already be said to have done so; and in our own days changes, as we know from experience, are made so rapidly that it is well at least to be prepared for that which may occur very soon. As a mere matter of opinion, I do not think that the change, if it be made at all, will be made soon; and weighing advantages and disadvantages against each other, I devoutly trust that the status of the Church

of England as an Established Church may long be maintained; but looking to that which is possible, and which many thoughtful persons deem probable, I regard it as highly desirable that we should accustom ourselves to a kind of action which in the case of a disestablished Church becomes an absolute necessity. It is well to practise swimming before the craft becomes a wreck. But supposing that things should go on essentially as they are, with only such modifications and improvements as all wise men would be glad to see, still opportunities of discussing important practical questions are of very great value."

Religious and Denominational News

The Baptist church, Stepney Chapel, King's Lynn, having given an unanimous invitation to the pastorate to the Rev. A. T. Osborne, late of Stoke Green, Ipswich, he has accepted the same, and purposes commencing his pastoral labours in that place early in the new year.

THE TWELVE DAYS' MISSION.—We are authorised to state that after careful deliberation and conference with the former Twelve Days' Mission Committee, the Bishops of London, Winchester, and Rochester have resolved that they will take the matter into their own hands, and will themselves take the lead in a simultaneous mission to be held either immediately before the season of Advent in 1871, or of Lent, 1872.—*Record.*

LUTON.—The Rev. J. H. Hitchens, F.R.S.L., is about to leave Luton for London, having received a cordial and unanimous invitation to be the minister of Eccleston-square Congregational Church, Belgravia. Mr. Hitchens has been pastor of the Luton Congregational Church nearly five years. We understand during that time more than two hundred persons have been added to the church-members, and the congregation has been very largely increased, whilst the debt on the beautiful edifice has been considerably diminished. A large meeting of the church-members was held on Wednesday evening last, at which it was unanimously decided to send a deputation to Mr. Hitchens, and earnestly solicit him to withdraw his resignation and continue in Luton. Mr. Hitchens has announced his intention of leaving early in January.—*Luton Times.*

OPEN-AIR MISSION.—Once a year the monthly conference of the members and friends of the Open-Air Mission is turned into a prayer-meeting. This meeting was held on Monday evening week, in the Hall, Red Lion-square, when much earnest prayer was offered on behalf of the society and its workers. In the course of the evening brief exhortations were given by Major Wilmot Brooke, late of the 60th Rifles, and Captain Liebenrood, R.N. Afterwards, the secretary (Mr. G. Kirkham) led out a band of preachers, who held short services in the neighbouring streets. The numbers drawn together by these short, hearty services—five of which were held in less than an hour—proves that open-air preaching is practicable to a certain extent even in winter, and is specially valuable as an auxiliary to indoor meetings. The majority of the members of the mission, however, turn their attention in winter to the visitation of lodging-houses, workhouses, schoolroom and cottage meetings, &c.

CLAPHAM.—On Wednesday evening, the 7th of December, the Rev. H. M. Gunn was recognised and welcomed as minister of the Congregational Church at Park-crescent Chapel, Clapham. The meeting was presided over by S. Morley, Esq., M.P., and addressed by the Revs. Baldwin Brown, B.A., J. G. Rogers, B.A., D. Thomas, D.D., and S. Eldridge, the ministers in the neighbourhood. After an account of the way in which the union of pastor and church had been brought about had been read by one of the officers, the Rev. H. M. Gunn acknowledged the cordial welcome in very feeling terms. The chairman then referred to a debt on the chapel, towards which he had promised 50*l.*, and other friends had contributed, but he should be glad to have it got rid of that evening. The Rev. J. Rogers, on behalf of friends, offered 30*l.* more, and several promises were then made, so that little more was left to be obtained. The meeting was then addressed by Rev. R. Ashton, formerly at Warminster before Mr. Gunn; F. Wills, Esq., of Clevedon; and Rev. H. Chancellor, formerly at Salisbury.

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.—On Tuesday morning last there was an interesting gathering at the institution to witness the dismissal of twenty-eight of the scholars who had finished their education there. The Revs. Charles Lee, M.A., Mannering, Grigsby, Burgess, Greeves, Nunn, Tyler, and a goodly company of the governors of the charity, were present. The chair was taken by Charles Tyler, Esq., the chairman of the House Committee. After singing, reading, and prayer, two of the girls were introduced to read an address, and to present a silver cup with a suitable inscription, to the chairman. The boys afterwards presented an address to the same gentleman, with a beautiful writing desk. These having been duly acknowledged, a Bible and a copy of "Come to Jesus" was given to each child leaving, with, to those who deserved it, an illuminated testimonial. An admirable address was then given to the children by the Rev. Charles Lee, the vicar of the district. Orders for 5*l.* were distributed to each boy about to leave, and for 3*l.* 3*s.* to each girl, when the meeting broke up highly gratified. The other children's holidays commenced on the 22nd instant.

HORNSEY-ROAD.—On Thursday evening a meeting was held to recognise and welcome the Rev. W. J. Holder, as minister of the Blenheim-road Chapel Hornsey-road. As a structure, the chapel realised all that could be desired of an iron building. The Rev. J. Corbin, of Park Chapel, Crouch-end, presided at the meeting. Mr. Russell Maynard, the secretary of the committee, read a short statement of the rise and progress of the work in connection with that place, from which it appeared that early in 1868 the subject of Christian effort in this neighbourhood was taken into consideration by some of the members of the church at Crouch-end, and it was decided to erect a separate building. The present chapel was opened on the last Sunday in September, 1869, for a Sunday school and for Sunday evening service. In October a Christian Instruction Society was organised; in November a night school for boys and girls was commenced. In January a fund which amounted to about 35*l.*, was raised for the relief of distress, and a meeting for work arranged for. In February the Penny Bank was opened. It appearing desirable that some stated minister should be appointed, Mr. Holder was invited to accept the position. The Rev. J. De Kewer Williams then bore testimony to Mr. Holder's character and work in previous fields of labour. The Rev. J. Sinclair, of Bermondsey, referred to his connection with Mr. Holder in that district some seven years since. The Rev. W. J. Holder having spoken, the Rev. Llewellyn Bevan, Mark Wilks, and Alexander Hannay, and Messrs. Keen and Dawson also addressed the meeting.

BRISTOL CONGREGATIONAL INSTITUTE.—The seventh annual meeting of the friends of this institute was held on Thursday night at Pembroke Chapel, Oakfield-road, under the presidency of Mr. Christopher Godwin. A letter was read from Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P., in which that gentleman spoke of the value of the institute, and said he had no sympathy with the fears expressed by many that the managers of the institute were introducing inferior persons into the ministry. The report having been read by the Rev. C. Chapman, of Bath, Mr. Sibree, the treasurer, presented his account, and remarked that last year, in consequence of the death of a large subscriber and the withdrawal of two large subscribers, there was a falling off in the income to the extent of 250*l.* To meet this heavy deficiency some of their kind friends and supporters came forward—Mr. Sommerville giving an extra 100*l.*, and Mr. Morley, M.P., and Mr. Charles Jupe an extra 50*l.* each. In Bristol nearly 400*l.* had been collected on behalf of the institute, and the total income for the past year, including the 200*l.* contributed towards clearing off the deficiency, was 1,100*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, and the total expenditure 982*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.*, leaving a balance due to the bankers of 66*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.* The adoption of the report and accounts was moved by the Rev. D. Thomas, seconded by Mr. H. O Wills, of Cotham Park, and carried unanimously. Other speakers subsequently addressed the meeting.

Correspondence.

THE EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF FRANCE,

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Kindly find room for the enclosed letter of M. Fisch. Our committee will be thankful to receive special donations for the maintenance of the evangelists and the relief of the distressed in connection with the evangelical churches and mission stations.

Yours truly,
JOHN SHEDLOCK.

7, Blomfield-street, E.C.

Paris, Dec. 17th, 1870.

My Dear Friend,—To-day ninety days are elapsed since we were shut up in our iron wall. Nothing is improved in our circumstances. Nearly all our victuals are exhausted except bread, wine, and the horses of our omnibuses and cabs, which we begin to eat. The last battle near Orleans removed all our hope of a speedy relief from without. Nevertheless, our newspapers infuse vigour, resistance, hope of a future victory, and Paris is as far as ever from every thought of surrendering. In these circumstances, my dear friend, we look up to God and our friends in Great Britain, for the maintenance of our work; we do not know even where the Prussians are, as the despatches of Gambetta are so vague and unsatisfactory. We do not know which stations are invaded and which are under French control. Only we heard that the Yonne must be under Prussian sway. What an amount of distress for our labourers, who in time of peace, with their scanty salary, have so much trouble to meet their expenses! They have now to feed Prussian soldiers, to pay war taxes, and they receive nothing from us, as we ourselves receive nothing at all. The whole income of our society for the last ninety days has been six shillings. All our nerves are strained towards the relief of our sick and wounded soldiers, and although we get neither our income nor our salaries, we must make collections for our hospitals and the thousands who suffer awful misery. When the war is over our provinces will not be able more than Paris to support our society, as all work is suspended, and poor France will remain for years utterly ruined. Oh, my dear friend, let our brethren in England take care in God's name of our poor humble country! It will require great efforts on their part; but the work of God in a field ploughed and prepared, as France will be after such trials, is worth their most intense activity; and the prodigious sums raised by their liberality show what they are able to do. I will soon convoke our committee to see whether it would not be well to ask you, my dear friend, to send some help to several of our stations—say, to those of the Yonne, as you will know much better the actual state of France. The chief thing is that funds may be raised for the maintenance of our work. We know that many millions of francs have been gathered in England for the wounded, and we feel deeply thankful for it. But as every man or woman who has a heart feels inclined in behalf of that bodily relief, whilst Christians alone know the worth of immortal souls, these must provide first of all for the preaching of the Gospel. You will be glad to hear, my dear friend, that our army in Paris is admirably well disposed to receive tracts and Bibles. A vast amount of good is done in our evangelical hospitals; Christian ladies teach the soldiers to read, give them the New Testament; when they leave they show their gratitude and love for those who relieved them both bodily and spiritually. The Church of Christ in Paris is much blessed in these hard times. General prayer-meetings crowd our largest churches; we feel wonderfully quiet, refreshed, confident in the Lord; the aspect of Paris is quite renewed. The change already is full of promise. Now, my dear friend, God bless you. If you think that the insertion of this letter in the papers may promote our common cause, it might perhaps be well.

I remain, my dear friend, very sincerely yours,
G. FISCH.

THE WAR.

ANOTHER SORTIE FROM PARIS.

There has been another sortie from Paris—this time from the north-west. A head-quarters telegram of Wednesday informs us that on the night before there had been heavy firing from the forts round Paris, without, however, causing any damage in the German lines; but next morning about three divisions, or say 36,000 men, of the French garrison made an attack on the positions of the Prussian Guard, and the 12th or Saxon *corps d'armée*, to the north and north-west of Paris—between Ecouen and Gonesse on the right, and Sevran and Champs on the left. The attack appears to have been made with no inconsiderable energy, for its repulse by the Germans occupied several hours. The *Daily News* correspondent with the Crown Prince of Saxony telegraphs:—"Until twelve o'clock the French fire was unremitting and furious. After that hour the steady German fire began to tell. By half-past two the French, except in the forts, were all but silenced. Shells fell in Montfermeil, and the horseshoe was threatened by French infantry, and fired on from the fort batteries at intervals during the day. Except at Le Bourget, no infantry was actually engaged. The French have been everywhere repulsed, but they still continue firing in places. The loss is trivial, I should imagine, on both sides, except in powder and shot." The King's telegram states that more than 1,000 unwounded prisoners were taken. Le Bourget was recaptured by the Germans. The *Times* correspondent says that the French were repulsed, "not without loss." The cold was intense. Mont Valérien threw a shell across the Seine to St. Germain.

The *Daily News* special correspondent with the army of the Crown Prince of Saxony gives ample details of the sortie begun on Wednesday, and the movements which followed it. That operation, of which it is now possible to trace the origin, appears to be completely at an end. The failure of Wednesday was not accepted by General Ducrot as a decisive result. The French infantry bivouacked on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights in the positions to which they had advanced, the mercury in the thermometer standing on the last night twelve degrees below freezing point. They remained out all day on Saturday, as if there was still a hope that something might be gained, and then, as night came on, broke up their bivouacs and fell back. A more trying service than this can hardly be imagined. The writer states that it was believed in the camp of the besiegers that General Trochu kept the men on the ground day after day in the belief that General Faidherbe was at hand, and that they would have an opportunity of co-operating with the Army of the North. The writer's account of the earnestness of the attack towards the north-east favours the belief that the sortie had been projected with an expectation of that kind. For three days after the main sortie, and until Saturday evening, the Germans on the east and north-east forts of Paris were kept in an attitude of expectation, and for a portion of that time the forts kept up a furious fire on Le Bourget. The writer speaks very respectfully of the field artillery used by the French on the 22nd, and mentions that, in this engagement, they employed the railway mitrailleuse, which runs out of fire to reload, and then advances by steam.

The same correspondent, writing from "the uttermost forepost, Forest of Bondy, before Clichy, December 22," says:—"The head-quarters estimate of the French loss for yesterday is about 3,000 killed and wounded; but I think this must be an over-calculation. The number of prisoners altogether amounts to about 1,000, a large proportion of whom are sailors. The chief loss of the day on the German side was sustained by the first battalion of the Queen Elizabeth Regiment. The battalion

which headed the attack which retook Le Bourget on the 30th of October has again had terrible reason to remember that village. Of its remnant of officers left, five more went down the day before yesterday, and 117 men were killed and wounded. The chief, Hauptman von Altrock, seems to bear a charmed life. He had on the 30th of October fourteen bullet-holes through his loose mackintosh, and not a single wound. The day before yesterday his officers fell around him, but he never was touched." In a postscript dated Margency, December 23 (evening), the writer adds:—"At two o'clock this afternoon the artillery duel recommenced, and continued till dark. The firing from the forts and field-batteries at Drancy and Courneuve was very heavy. Our reply was from between Aulnay and Sevran. About 30,000 French infantry stood in line, from Courneuve to Baubigny, in the rear of Clichy. Two attempts were made to assault Le Bourget, but neither made any head. The French are still in position, and receiving continued reinforcements by railway."

The French official report of the fighting on the 21st states that the operations were interrupted by night setting in. To the east, the French occupied Neuilly-sur-Marne, Ville Evrard, and the Maison Blanche, and silenced the enemy's fire on all points. After a severe artillery duel to the north-east, Admiral la Roncière, with the troops of St. Denis, attacked Le Bourget, but could not maintain himself there, and returned with 100 prisoners. General Ducrot made a violent attack against the batteries of Pont Iblon and Blanc Mesnil; to the west, General Noel made a demonstration on Montretout and Buzenval. The Gardes Mobiles took part in the action with great ardour. At night General Ducrot occupied the farm of Groslay and Grand Drancy. General Trochu passed the night on the field of battle. The troops of Admiral la Roncière suffered severely, the others very little.

A military critic remarks in the *Pall Mall Gazette*:—"On the 21st Vinoy's corps actually carried and held the outposts of Maison Blanche and Ville d'Evrard, which lie about a mile apart, and nearly a mile and a half beyond Mount Avron. Here they had a new position, with the right at the second place named, secured by the Marne, and the left reaching up to the Strasbourg railway, which runs just north of the gardens of the Maison Blanche. If they could have secured this and brought up heavy guns, the fire of the latter would have reached the vicinity of Lagny, which the Germans have made the temporary terminus of the Strasbourg line, and which it is of course of vital importance to them to keep secure. It is not surprising that the Saxons should have been compelled to recover these posts, as the German telegrams and those of the *Daily News* state decidedly that they did, in a counter attack made in the evening. But it is very surprising that the French, with all their traditional engineering aptitude, should have held them for many hours without more effort to turn the occupation into permanent advantage, and that they should have been restored to the Saxons with, as it would seem, small loss to the latter, and with the gain of 600 prisoners."

THE IMPENDING BOMBARDMENT.

A telegram from Berlin, dated Monday, the 26th, says that the attack on Paris, so long delayed by the difficulties of transport and by various other considerations, is at last about to begin, this time in reality:—

It is probable that the guns of the besiegers will be directed, as I have before now indicated, against three, or more probably two, of the outer forts; and I should not be surprised if the range of the German batteries were at the same time tried upon the city itself. The preparations are of the most deliberate and detailed character; and they will admit of the commencement of the bombardment at no more remote date than Sunday next, the 1st of January. I believe they are even so far advanced, that the postponement of the attack until the opening day of the new year has been caused, in reality, mainly by the reluctance of the besieging chiefs to interfere with the Christmas festival, to which the Germans attach a character of so much importance, or even sanctity.

In his letter of the 21st, Dr. Russell says in the *Times*:—"I have now arrived at the conclusion, with a moral certainty to my own mind, that General Trochu is forming a vast entrenched camp under the guns of Fort Valérien, into which he intends to retire when Paris is all but starved and the population is becoming troublesome. The fort is in itself a little town; it is safe from fire; it commands Paris. Day after day I have seen long convoys of carts going along the road from Courbevoie to the rear of the fort, as if heavily laden, and returning briskly, as if light. The labour bestowed on the entrenchments and their extent indicate some large scheme. In good maps there is a windmill marked about 800 metres to the W.N.W. of Valérien. This is the centre of one great redoubt. There is another still larger—to the south of the Mill Battery, and beyond it to the south, again—that is, nearer to the German position—is yet another work, with its front defended by rifle-pits. There can be no question about the intention of these entrenched positions; they can cover a very large force; nor can there be any doubt but that the Germans intend to try the 'metal' of the French guns and their own by opening fire on various points which appear assailable. The guns of the Germans are of exceedingly long ranging powers. The larger guns, with 170lb. shell, are potent; but I question if the French naval 10-inch guns will not prove their masters in a fair duel. To the great mortar-howitzer, or whatever it may be called, the French have no means of replying."

Another correspondent says it is calculated by the German officers that the French have at least doubled the extent of their defensive works round the "key of Paris" since the siege has begun. Valérien must be well nigh impregnable now; indeed, the Germans allow that to take it would be "sehr schwer."

The correspondent of the *Times* with the 12th Royal Saxon Army Corps at Le Vert Galant says:—"As you are aware, the work of making Mount Avron a fort was undertaken only recently. It is at present perhaps the most formidable, and certainly it is the most troublesome, one on the northern line Avron sweeps the whole valley of the Marne, but it is very ambitious, and is bent on sweeping a still wider and more distant range of country. A despatch of the 22nd says:—"Everything is in readiness for the bombardment of Mont Avron from the batteries near Montfermeil."

Later news from Paris to the 22nd, by balloon, states that fresh military operations appeared to be imminent, and that the city was perfectly calm and confident in the future. The journals estimated the French loss during the fighting of the previous day at about 800 killed and wounded.

Diplomatic or military communications between here and Paris are for the present suspended, because the French fire upon the German *parlementaires*, even along the road over the bridge at Sèvres, which has been set apart by consent for the passage of flags of truce, and even while the conventional flag for that purpose is hoisted.

THE CAMPAIGN ON THE LOIRE.

On Wednesday last the 19th division of the German army advanced up to the bridge at Tours, and as the inhabitants offered resistance, thirty shells were thrown into the town. The white flag was thereupon hoisted, and the Mayor asked for a Prussian garrison. This was not complied with. The division, according to their instructions, contented themselves with the destruction of the railway, and withdrew to their appointed cantonments. It is said that the Prussians all returned to Blois. They now hold the Valley of the Loire from Gien to near Tours. Above Gien the Germans are stopped by troops stationed at Briare and on the left bank of the Loire. The road to Bourges is barred by General Bourbaki, whose army is said to be completely reorganised. On the 15th inst. a brigade of Bourbaki's army, feeling for the enemy to the north-east of Bourges, fell in with three battalions of Bavarians, and repulsed them with great loss, driving them back upon their main body at Gien. The *Manchester Examiner* has received a private telegram from Havre, which states that General Bourbaki is reported to have shown symptoms of insanity. According to accounts from Bordeaux, the Germans were falling back on Orleans.

A Bordeaux despatch says that on Friday evening a serious engagement took place between the troops under the command of General Chanzy and the Prussians under the command of the Duke of Mecklenburg. The French occupied the heights, and the Prussians attacked in great force, but were met by a murderous fire from the mitrailleuses, which inflicted heavy losses, estimated at 4,000 men. The French evacuated Vendôme, and afterwards continued their movement of retreat, which is declared to be Chanzy's plan of campaign.

The correspondent of the *Times* at Bordeaux writes:—"As regards the whole loss of the French during the first ten days of the month of December, I feel convinced, from all that has come to my knowledge, that it cannot have been less than 50,000 men *hors de combat*, and I think it is quite possible that it may even have been heavier."

General Chanzy is believed to be now at or near Le Mans, and it is expected that a battle will shortly be fought there. It will be a great blow to the French if that town should fall into the hands of the Prussians, as no less than five lines of rail join here, and the possession of it by the Prussians would completely cut off the communications of the North with the South of France. The more, says a correspondent of the *Telegraph* at Le Mans, I see of the men the French are now bringing into the field the more am I convinced they cannot stand against the German veterans. I should think there are 100,000 men in or about this town.

There are some 50,000 troops at Le Mans who have not yet been under fire; besides, it must not be forgotten that the forces consist for the most part of Mobiles recently raised, and armed with the old muzzle-loader. Better material for soldiers could not be found than these men, but of what avail would double the number be, in their present state, against 20,000 Germans? The rest of the troops at Le Mans are composed of the *débris* of different regiments which have been sent there to reform, and a miscellaneous lot of Francs-tireurs, National Guards, and Garibaldians. If the Prussians really advance on Le Mans—a thing considered unlikely, at least for the present—the will be a battle outside the town, with the usual result.

According to a telegram from the Royal Headquarters at Versailles, there are more than 6,000 French wounded between Orleans and Blois who have been left without medical assistance.

A Bordeaux letter gives the following as the probable plan of the French War Office:—

It seems that now Tours has been, so to speak, abandoned, a most determined push in two columns will be made upon Paris; and that even if Bourbaki and Chanzy leave half their men in the field they will push on with the remainder. From Bordeaux, as from other *chefs-lieux des départements*, immense bodies of the Garde Nationale Mobilisée start every day for the front—I should think not fewer than 15,000 men from La Gironde must have taken their departure since I arrived here six days ago.

A correspondent at Versailles writes:—

The armies acting upon a plan of combined operations against Chanzy and Bourbaki will probably be reinforced by an Army Corps to be detached from the forces investing Paris. I am assured that it can very well be spared, so enormously have the artificial defences of our lines been strengthened within the last fortnight.

M. Gambetta has left Bourges for the Army of Lyons, in order to continue his task of making himself acquainted with the military forces of France. He was at Lyons on Monday.

A "military correspondent" of the *Times*, in a letter dated, Orleans December 17, says:—"Looking back over the events of this short campaign of the Loire since Prince Frederick Charles came down with his victorious troops from Metz, and took the command, one cannot but be struck by the want of fighting power shown by the French, and their increasing demoralisation. M. Gambetta thinks to find favour with fortune by changing his generals. To have any fair hope of winning he must change his men too, or at least their condition of mind and body. From what intelligence I can pick up, the inference cannot but be drawn that the Army of the Loire, if army it can be called, is not only demoralised, but almost mutinous. The men have learnt to expect ill-success whenever they meet their foes. I have heard of officers shot for not leading on their men, and of men muttering that they will shoot Gambetta if he refuses to make peace. One may admire the tenacity and persistence of the man. Certainly he has created and equipped an army in an extraordinary short space of time, and while there is life hope cannot be denied. But if hope be carried so far as to prevent the sick man from taking the only medicine likely to restore him, it savours more of recklessness than of courage."

The *Times* correspondent with the German army writing from Oucques on the 14th, says:—

Great is the mystery of war. We left Orleans to go to Tours, and we seem to be on the straight road to Paris. On the 9th of last month the small Bavarian force under the command of General Von der Tann, after making a gallant stand at Coulmiers, was obliged to retreat before the French Army of the Loire. Five weeks afterwards, after marching incessantly and fighting eight battles, we find ourselves in sight of the wood behind which the battle of the 9th was fought, with the selfsame army before us in a stronger position than it has ever been in before. I do not know that it was possible to avoid this, or that the German strategy has not been as perfect lately as it proved itself at the earlier stages of the war. Possibly, the tactics of the enemy have improved, but the task of preventing a French army from reaching Paris from some quarter or other is evidently not an easy one. We have so much to do. There is Tours to take, the South of France to invade, the Army of the Loire to beat, innumerable lines of communications to keep up, and a vast extent of territory to occupy, while the greater portion of army is held firmly round the forts of Paris; whereas the energies of the French need only be directed to the one point of raising the siege of Paris. They have made up their minds to sacrifice everything to this one end, and they seem to have entrusted the task to a general not altogether unworthy of the confidence which has been reposed in him. After holding us in check for four days in Meung, he disappears mysteriously into the woody country which lies in his rear. He abandons a strong position, but we find it is only to take up a stronger one directly on the road to Paris, and from which he can receive reinforcements from the west. Still, he does not do this without considerable loss. Hitherto the roads by which his army has retreated have been as devoid of any traces of an army in retreat as any turnpike road in England; but to-day it has been very different. Numerous broken-down wagons, chassepots scattered profusely by the roadside, and knapsacks partially emptied of their contents, attest the fact of a certain amount of hurry and confusion; but the most significant sign of all was a column of prisoners which we met on our road to this place. From afar I saw the line of red trousers, betokening regular troops, and on inquiry I found that the total number taken in Oucques and the neighbourhood amounted to over 1,700, and this without a battle. . . . The significance of the situation, from a military point of view, however, does not seem to me to consist so much in its strength as in its geographical position. The Army of the Loire is now on the high road to Paris by way of Chateaudun, with no German army any longer between it and the one which is investing the capital, but with an army of inferior force behind it. It has, moreover, its western communications open, so that it can receive reinforcements from the side of Le Mans, and we have reason to believe that its advanced guard is at Chateaudun. The quantities of prisoners which it leaves behind is a bad sign of its *morale*, but it may be that those who remain are gainers by the departure of men who can be no great source of strength to the army. We know from the experience of the last fortnight that it can fight tolerably well. The question now is, can it reach Paris before we can overtake it, and hold us in check while it co-operates with a sortie from that city?

INSIDE PARIS.

On the 20th, Paris had been shut in by the German armies for three months. One correspondent, writing from Paris on the 20th inst., says that the deaths during the week ending Dec. 17, amounted to 2,728, or 273 more than the preceding week, and considerably more than double the average number at this season. Children and old people are the greatest sufferers by the privations consequent on the siege. Numbers of little coffins are seen passing through the streets every day. Another correspondent says:—"I was told yesterday by an old resident in the Avenue de Clichy that the hearses conveying corpses to the Cemetery of Montmartre, in which the poor are principally buried, formed what he called *une procession perpétuelle*. Small as is the ordinary charge for a pauper's funeral in Paris—about 18f., I believe—it has in this time of distress and calamity been still further reduced." According to all accounts, the resolution of the defenders of Paris remains unbroken. The Government continued its measures for making the most of the food resources of Paris. A proclamation placarded on the walls informs the public that there is bread enough and to spare, but that housewives must not

be running to the baker's in panic and buying up other persons' shares with their own. As soon as the existing stock of white loaves is exhausted, the wholesome brown cake universally eaten by the peasants, and none other, will be permitted to be offered for sale. The supply of meat is also assured, inasmuch as 500 horses are slaughtered daily, Paris can hold out for another ten weeks. An official note informs the Parisians that there is bread and wine till the beginning of March. A decree has been issued putting into requisition all stores of flour and wheat. By six o'clock on the same evening there was no bread to be had anywhere for money. On the following morning an appeal to the public good sense, signed by all the members of the Government, was placarded. The manufacture of biscuits is prohibited, and flour is not obtainable, the sale being forbidden under a heavy fine. The sortie of the 21st was heralded by great preparations, and it was hoped that it would prove decisive. Battalions of sappers were sent to the front with entrenching tools and materials for bridges: 1,000 horses of the Omnibus Company were taken up for service by the Government on requisition; long trains of artillery wagons were sent towards the scene of operations, and the active companies of the National Guard were provided with 120 rounds of cartridge per man, and sent off to posts of combat. The fate of Paris, it was thought, depended much upon the question whether these new battalions of the National Guard would prove real soldiers, and might be regarded as a *bonâ fide* addition to the fighting army of Paris. If they should only prove as brave as the Breton Mobiles, it was thought Paris might be saved."

The following are extracts from a Parisian letter, dated Dec. 20th:—

I know several French ladies, some of them members of the noblest families of France, who assist personally in the preparation of the dishes served every day at the tables of their husbands or sons; and who have discovered how to make horse and dog not only eatable, but tempting. I dined three nights ago with a lady who belongs to an old Legitimist family, and whose two sons are at this moment prisoners in Germany. She gave to us a dish of *cheval braisé* which any one might have mistaken for the best *bœuf à la mode*. As for the mixture of chocolate and rice for which she apologised as her only *plat doux*, it would have been pronounced excellent even by the *officier* of the late Prince Talleyrand. If Prince Talleyrand were now alive and in Paris, the ten men who, according to Mr. Raikes, were daily employed in preparing his dinner, would, I have no doubt, make some brilliant discoveries with regard to the best method of serving up horse, ass, dog, cat, rat, wolf, antelope, parrot, and pelican. You must not imagine that I have written down the names of beasts and birds at haphazard—for each of the animals I mention have been consumed here for food within the last few days. The Jardin d'Acclimation, as well as the Jardin des Plantes, or Zoological Gardens, has contributed flesh and fowl of every kind to the comestibles of Paris; and a martial wine-merchant—an excellent type of extreme Chauvinism—told me to-day that Paris would eat not only the lions, tigers, hyenas, and wolves still left in the Jardin des Plantes, but also the last rat in her sewers, before she would give in.

With respect to the brown bread there is no discontent, but many murmur at the deprivation of flour and biscuits, which enabled them to vary their diet considerably. Yesterday, attracted by a crowd round a butcher's shop, I looked in, and saw some meat exposed for sale that positively set one's mouth watering. On inquiry, I learned that the meat in question was all sold at fifteen francs per pound. It consisted principally of a young elephant and two camels, which the enterprising butcher had bought at about 80*l.* each in the Zoological Gardens, and for which he had found ready purchasers. A few pieces of dog, that he had also for sale, he informed me were almost equal to beef, and preferable to horse; but, as I did not quite like their appearance, I declined to purchase any at four francs per pound. I and others have eaten cat, and find it little inferior to rabbit; I have also tasted mouse and rat.

With regard to the reports published as to the state of things in Paris, a correspondent of the *Daily News* says there is great reason to suspect that papers are written and printed expressly for the dissemination of statements for which it is desired to obtain belief. One of the officers lately sent out from Paris saw there a paper containing a totally different list of prices of provisions from that contained in an exoteric impression of the same paper of the same date. It seems provisions are really much dearer in Paris than have been supposed.

A letter from Paris to the 17th announces that a census of the inhabitants had been taken, with a view to the equitable distribution of food, and to ascertain the number of those who had not fulfilled their military duties. The gas supply was completely exhausted. The Boulevards and a few shops were lighted with petroleum, yet crimes were never less frequent.

The French Government at Bordeaux has issued a proclamation denying the rumours of disorders in Paris and of their violent repression, and explains that the only ground for such rumours was that two battalions of the National Guard had been suppressed for breaches of military discipline, and that M. Flourens had been sent before a court-martial for the usurpation of military rank. So far from there being any discord in the city, the union of spirit of patriotism continued to rise.

A Paris letter says:—"Some of the *restaurateurs* have private farms just outside Paris, within the shelter of the fortifications, and are thus still enabled to provide such luxuries as fresh butter, eggs, and milk—at rather heavy prices, however. A cup of *chocolat au lait*, a pat of butter, two eggs, and bread *à discrétion*, cost 5f. or 6f.; but then the bread alone can be considered a necessary of life, and this has not yet even been rationed."

REPORTED FRENCH DEFEAT IN THE NORTH.

The following despatches have been received by the Queen from the King of Prussia:—

VERSAILLES, Dec. 25, 10 a.m.

On the 23rd General Manteuffel defeated the enemy near Amiens. Details are wanting. Nothing serious has occurred here, but the enemy is still bivouacking masses of men before his eastern front. To-day the thermometer shows nine degrees of cold, but the weather is cheerful, without snow or wind.

4 P.M.—General Manteuffel made more than 1000 prisoners, and took several guns. The pursuit did not begin till to-day, towards Arras.

On Saturday the enemy, in order to cover his retreat, attempted several offensive onslaughts on General Manteuffel's forces, but was repulsed. More than 1,000 unwounded prisoners have up to the present fallen into our hands. Early this morning General Manteuffel reports:—"The defeated Army of the North is being pursued by me in a north-easterly direction."

General Faidherbe has sent the following despatch relative to the battle on the 22nd inst:—

The enemy gave us battle on the 22nd inst. from eleven in the morning until six in the evening. We held favourable positions on a tributary of the Somme, between Daours and Conty. Our troops maintained the conflict admirably. During the day villages were taken and retaken. At five o'clock our success was complete, our infantry having repulsed the enemy at the point of the bayonet. Between five and six o'clock the Prussians, taking advantage of the darkness, reoccupied some villages in the valley. Our troops bivouacked on their positions.

General Faidherbe has sent the following despatch to the Prefect of the North:—

On the morrow of the battle of Pont Noyelles the Army of the North, which had slept on the battle-field, the thermometer marking four degrees of cold, waited until two p.m. to see whether the Germans would recommence fighting. The enemy, however, making no movement, the army proceeded to the cantonments around Albert, instead of to the villages which it occupied previously, and which were half burnt down during the battle.

A telegram from Lille states that a force of 6,000 Prussians is passing through St. Quentin to reinforce. On Christmas-day General Manteuffel reached Albert in pursuit of the French Army of the North, when prisoners were captured.

In order to know whether Faidherbe really lost a battle on Friday or not, it would be necessary, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, to understand what was his real object in fighting—for the fighting was deliberately provoked by him—and if the object were to release the troops at Cherbourg, or even the simpler one of showing that, under him, the beaten Army of the North could face Manteuffel boldly and engage him without discredit, then the supposed object was fully gained, and the battle cannot be called a defeat. It was evident that it was perfectly indecisive in itself, that the French were willing to renew it on the following morning, that they fell back at their own time, and that the pursuit was not ardent. Unless, therefore, Faidherbe had really hoped to recover Amiens, there can be no reason to suppose that he has failed. The despatches of this intelligent and scientific officer—a man of far higher mark than the majority of his class—may be said to contrast very favourably in exactness and modesty with those wild braggadocio documents with which we have been so familiar these four months past, and the style of which is by no means extinct among French commanders.

There are 60,000 troops at Havre ready to defend that town. At Cherbourg a large number of troops are already well armed and equipped, 10,000 of which have already left the city as an advanced guard to take up a position in the field. The new army is daily increasing. Rouen has a garrison of only 1,500 Germans.

The *Journal du Havre* publishes the statement of a person arrived from Rheims to the effect that all along the route as far as Strasbourg convoys of Prussian marines were met marching to join the besieging army of Paris.

The *Echo du Nord* says that the German garrison at Rheims has been increased from 2,500 to 10,000 men, and that of Chalons has been likewise quadrupled in consequence of the threatening attitude of the Army of the North. The town of Chalons having refused to comply with the late demands of the Germans for requisitions, three hostages have been carried off to Prussia.

Along the line from Cape de la Heve at Havre to Harfleur, traversing the high land, and forming a base to the semicircle on which Havre is built, forts have been constructed at every available point, and these forts are connected by a continuous entrenchment. The whole work has been done by the population—all classes handling the spade and pick-axe—and the line of defence is about nine miles in length. In the hands of trained and resolute men, the defences, if not impregnable, would at least defy any force unprovided with siege artillery, and there is no point accessible to an enemy from which field-guns could be brought to bear upon the town. Many of the forts are manned by sailors, and armed with ships' guns of large calibre. Commandant Mouchez declares that if the Prussians forced the lines he and his men would retire to the ironclads in the river, and would shell the enemy without regard to the fate of the town.

SIX ENGLISH VESSELS SUNK BY THE PRUSSIANS.

The *Times* publishes the following telegram from its correspondent at Havre:—"The Prussians have seized six English vessels at Duclair, on the Seine, and have scuttled and sunk them in order to impede the navigation. The Prussians fired upon the crews, turned them adrift to sleep upon the ground, and robbed them of money and other property. The vessels had discharged coal under Prussian permits, and were taking in ballast to return."

The following is from the *Standard*:—"The Prussians at Duclair have committed an unjustifiable outrage on the British flag. They have sunk across the Seine six English ships, five of which came down the river. Among them are the Sylph, the Juno, the Paragon, the Jane Kendal, and the Maclaren. We are told that the Vice-Consul at Rouen has protested against this outrage."

Captain Hozier, Assistant Military Commissioner, Captain Brackenbury, and other English officers and gentlemen, were dining together at the principal hotel in Etampes, on the night of Wednesday, the 14th, when, without any previous warning, they found themselves under arrest as French spies. Their papers were treated with contempt, and they were locked up in separate rooms, by order of Major Hollweger, the Etappen Commandant. Next morning Captain Hozier was permitted to write several messages to be telegraphed to the Crown Prince and Major-General Walker at Versailles; but, as those messages never reached their destination, it is a fair presumption that they were never forwarded. The prisoners remained locked up in their rooms all Thursday, and on Friday they were sent off, under a guard of dragoons, to Versailles. They reached Versailles on Saturday afternoon, and were then released, on Major-General Walker engaging, on their behalf, that they should be forthcoming to answer any accusation brought against them. The *Echo* says the Government has taken the matter up.

THE WAR IN OTHER QUARTERS.

The bombardment of Belfort is being carried on vigorously. After the completion of the third parallel a considerable portion of the Faubourg de France was burnt down.

15,000 Prussians and eighty guns have arrived before Mezières, and the bombardment will soon commence. Frequent encounters take place between the Prussian troops and the Francs-tireurs.

General von Goltz reports that he surprised the enemy, who occupied four cantonments at Langres, and drove him back towards the north. In this affair the French left behind in Prussian hands a considerable number of prisoners, arms, and baggage.

The fight at Nuits, near Dijon, on the 20th seems to have been well contested. On the side of the Germans two Baden brigades were engaged, while opposed to them were two regiments from Lyons, two regiments of Mobiles, some Francs-tireurs, and eighteen guns. These are estimated at 20,000 men. In reality, the numbers on each side appears to have been nearly equal. General Cramer, not Garibaldi, commanded, and he retired fighting stubbornly from position to position. The Germans lost forty-two officers and 700 men; the French many officers and over 1,000 men, and 700 unwounded prisoners, but no guns.

General Werder's occupation of the Dijon district is by no means a sinecure, judging by the letters from his army, which speak of the strength of the 14th Corps consisting in its concentration about the city, and of the resolve of the general to hold the country by the severe process of sending out constantly flying columns to make requisitions and harass the hostile parties. "These," says one account, "constantly appear and fire on our posts at a distance of 1,600 or 1,800 paces, but make off as soon as our men turn out." When Prince Frederick Charles was known to be on his way over the Upper Seine, Werder tried to communicate directly with him by one of his favourite flying columns sent straight across country. But the officer commanding, after reaching Chatillon, found the country so hostile that he thought it better to turn back, and suffered some loss in retreating through the defiles of the Côte d'Or. This well-known range of hills runs across from the Saone district about Chalons (sur-Saone) to the plateau of Langres, and being cut up by numerous glens and wooded valleys, is very favourable to the partisan warfare.

A correspondent with Garibaldi's army states that, owing to dissensions at head-quarters, General Canzio tendered his resignation on the 2nd December, and that he was followed by all the principal Italian officers, including, it was believed, Menotti Garibaldi. The corps remained at Autun.

There are entrenched camps of instruction at Bordeaux, La Rochelle, Clermont Ferrand, Toulouse, Montpellier, Pas des Lanciers, and Lyons. In each of these a corps—in some cases an army—is to be organised.

From Lyons we have particulars of the assassination there of M. Arnaud, the Commandant of the National Guard. It seems that the people were greatly excited by the report that upon Nuits being occupied by the Germans, two battalions of the National Guard of Lyons had been entirely destroyed. A public meeting was accordingly held, at which some violent speeches were delivered, and delegates appointed for the purpose of carrying out revolutionary measures. The delegates met. M. Arnaud requested to be allowed to enter the hall in which they were sitting. This was refused, and he was struck and hustled, and his sword broken. Drawing his revolver, he fired twice, but was overpowered, taken into the hall, tried, condemned to death, and immediately executed, no attempt being made to rescue him. A telegram from Bordeaux says that the crime is not to be imputed to any political party.

The military correspondent of the *Gazette de Silesie* confirms the reported resolution at German head-quarters not to continue the advance into those parts of France not yet invaded, but to consolidate the German forces in the territory already conquered, and to occupy it so as to close access to any force attempting to penetrate into the territory, whether

with the view of relieving Paris, or cutting off the besieging army from its base of operations. The line of the Oignon, the fortresses of Belfort and Langres, the Loire and the Cher on the south, the Sarthe on the west, and the Somme and the railway of the Ardennes on the north and the north-east, would form the extreme lines of the projected occupation.

NOTES AND INCIDENTS.

The Imperial villa at Biarritz has from the beginning of the war been given up for the use of the wounded.

The material of war at Metz is being daily transported into Germany.

The siege guns arriving in large numbers before Paris are reported to be not of so large a calibre as is desirable.

The Bavarians, who are fierce, passionate soldiers, and apt to expose themselves, seem to have lost about one-sixth of their men in the twelve days' fighting against three times their number on the Loire.

The new regiments of Lorraine (German) sharpshooters will be entrusted with the duty of keeping down Francs-tireurs in the woods and forests flanking the line of communications between the army and Germany. They are made up of old foresters, gardes-chasses, gamekeepers, &c.—all of whom, besides, are "ausgediente Soldaten."

The Tours Government has presented Colonel Ricciotti Garibaldi with the Cross of the Legion of Honour. He has refused it with the consent of his father. Ricciotti says:—"I am very happy to fight for the French Republic, but I cannot be expected to accept as a recompense a decoration which owes its origin to the French Empire."

The following is Garibaldi's reply to the offer of a sword of honour:—"Autun, Dec. 18.—My dear Chevassus,—I consider a sword given by France as the most glorious of gifts, and you will certainly be astonished that I do not accept it. Having closed the door against all decorations for the braves who accompany me, I can admit no preference. At the close of the war I will accept with them whatever Republican France chooses to award. Not before. My gratitude to the generous initiators of an idea flattering for me and for you.—Yours, G. GARIBALDI."

It appears that the late disagreement between M. Gambetta and M. Kératry has been satisfactorily terminated. The latter is reinstated in his command of the Army of Brittany. On the 13th inst. MM. Glais-Bizoin and Kératry reviewed the troops encamped at Conlie, situate about seventy miles from Le Mans, and highly complimented them on their smart appearance and military bearing.

Count Chaudordy has sent a diplomatic despatch to the Cabinet of the Hague, declaring that France and civilised men of all countries have learnt with horror and indignation that the four French prisoners who had escaped from Germany, and reached Dutch territory, were surrendered by the Dutch authorities into German territory, where they were shot. Count Chaudordy in strong terms recalls to the Cabinet of the Hague the principles of the right of peoples, and that law of superior justice which everywhere protects courage in misfortune, and gives it a claim to inviolable hospitality amongst civilised people and in all regularly constituted States.

General d'Aurelles des Paladines has definitively withdrawn from active service, alleging partly his age and increasing infirmity as reasons for not going into a new sphere of service. He is sixty-seven years old.

The Prussian occupation has caused great distress in Orleans. Bread is seven sous per pound.

Of the runaway French officers who lived in Germany on parole six have been retaken and sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment in a fortress.

It is estimated that already over 40,000 persons have arrived in Bordeaux with the Government.

M. Valdée, of Marseilles, has invented a navigable balloon which can carry heavy weights and can be constructed in twenty days. His system has been approved by a committee of scientific men and engineers.

Lagny and Metz are said to be under water, and only the railroads are available for bringing up stores and supplies.

The German reinforcements pouring into France are composed of the last ban of that force formed of men approaching middle age, many of them accustomed to sedentary occupations, few fitted to undergo the hardships of a winter's campaign in an enemy's country, and whose military training must be half forgotten.

Tours is crowded with wounded from the recent engagements, no less than 12,000 having been conveyed thither.

According to a French estimate the losses of the Germans since the 28th of November, round Paris, on the Loire, in skirmishes, from freeshooters, sickness, &c., are set down as not less than 50,000.

An industrial company of Francs-tireurs has been formed, calling themselves the Enfants Perdus of the Rhône. Their chief object is to cut off the Prussian convoys; and they do not ask to be recognised as belligerents or to be paid by the State. They have a capital of 50,000 francs, in 1,000 shares of 50 francs, each of which will be partially repaid after every prize captured from the enemy.

The forthcoming number of *Macmillan's Magazine* will contain M. Guizot's letter to the Provisional Government in full, in an "authorised translation."

A Bordeaux letter says:—"One wealthy manufacturer here, whom the papers designate as Mr. Vulture, hearing that Lord Lyons was in search of a furnished apartment, offered him a very tolerable one, consisting of seven or eight rooms, at the moderate rent of 15,000f. a month, just 7,200*l.* a year. I hear that when the offer was thankfully declined he showed a disposition to make a sacrifice, and accept 10,000f., but lower than that he evidently thought he could not with propriety go."

A telegram from Bordeaux says it is reported that M. Gambetta is discontented with General Chanzy for not having done more than he did, but impartial observers will think it wonderful he did so much.

Count Bismark has addressed a circular to the representatives of Germany at foreign Courts on the subject of French officers escaping from captivity by breaking their word of honour, and the sanction which the French Government accords to the conduct of such officers by giving them appointments. The Count warns those now in power in France that precautionary measures rendered necessary by such practices will now be adopted.

The Queen has given permission for the fine picture, by Mr. Frith, of the "Marriage of the Prince of Wales," to be placed in the Exhibition for the French Peasantry, and two other pictures of unique interest from the Royal collection—"The Blind Fiddler," by Wilkie, and "The Cottage Home," by Mulready—which are now added to the exhibition. The sales of pictures presented by the artists already amount to more than 1,500 guineas, and the number of visitors to the gallery in Suffolk-street promises to add a handsome increase to the fund.

It is mentioned in the annual report of the American Ordnance Department, that "since the close of the war the Department has disposed of more than 1,340,000 stand of small arms, unfit for use, and of unserviceable patterns; 350,000 of these were sold within the past month." "The sales since the 1st July, 1870, to present date have yielded about 5,000,000 dols." The *New York Shipping and Commercial List*, of November 30th, states that "since the commencement of the Franco-Prussian war it is estimated that the value of the munitions of war which have been shipped hence to Europe, closely approximates 10,000,000 dols., and the principal manufactories of improved implements are still fully employed on foreign orders."

The Municipal Council of Marseilles has voted the sum of 4,000*l.* to Garibaldi's army, and has telegraphed to the General to know to what objects that sum could be applied.

A balloon hovered over Plymouth for a short time on Saturday night. At one time it came down to within a comparatively short distance over the north part of the town, but apparently from some misapprehension of the locality, ballast was thrown out by its occupants, and it rose again and rapidly drifted to the south-west. It is supposed to be another of the Paris balloons.

AID FOR THE FRENCH PEASANTRY.—The Society of Friends is increasing its staff of almoners engaged in dispensing relief among the distressed peasantry in the east France. According to the last report issued by the committee, ten members, or agents, of the society, are occupied in this beneficial work. Mr. Whitwell is generally establishing district organisations (Mr. H. T. Mennell helping him); Mr. Hack has charge of the stores at Metz; Mr. W. Pumphrey and Mr. J. Bellows are visiting the peasantry near Metz; and Mr. C. Elcock is on the way to Antwerp, with a large consignment of goods. Four ladies are also engaged—viz., Elizabeth A. Barclay, visiting the sick; Amelia de Bunsen, organising ladies associations; and Augusta J. Fry, and Richenda E. Reynolds, preparing and sorting clothing for distribution. Nearly ten thousand people were, at the last accounts, on the lists for assistance; and this number is being constantly increased, as the commissioners find time to extend their inquiries; every place which has suffered from occupation by the armies being more or less distressed for want of clothing and food.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

THE FRENCH ARMAMENTS.—I understand that Remington, the great American rifle-maker, is about to establish a line of steamers from Southampton to this place, in order to deliver more quickly the supplies of the Government in the way of arms, ammunition, &c. I believe that this enterprising firm will, for many weeks to come, land in France twenty thousand rifles every ten days, with about three hundred rounds of ammunition for each weapon. Six weeks hence France will have a million of men armed with breech-loaders of one sort or another, and a month later she will have a million and a half of breech-loading rifles in reserve. —*Letter from Bordeaux.*

THE ALSATIANS.—In Alsace, says the *Siècle*, the people in the towns, as in the country, abhor the Prussians, avoid them as though they were plague-struck, and are preparing Sicilian Vespers for the hour of their reverses. The women forswear tasteful dress to put on mourning. Some have sworn not to leave their rooms while the Prussians pollute Strasbourg with their presence. The Promenade du Broglie, formerly so bright and animated, is now sad and deserted, frequented by Prussian soldiers only. The Prussian bands play there every day without attracting any one. You hear a heavy sound on the pavé. A detachment of Prussian soldiers is passing by; a swarm of street boys rush out of the nearest alley, who gibe at the Germans, and favour them with the strains of the "Marseillaise." These poor children are sometimes the victims of their temerity: officers have more than once been seen to crush them under their horses' feet, and finish them off with the heels of their boots. Never mind, they are not discouraged, and resume their jests and jeers next day. As for the men, they have given up their Alsatian patois to speak nothing but French.

A BAD OMEN.—The *Times* correspondent at Versailles notes as among the results of the war, and one which he fears is fast assuming large proportions, a change in the character of the German people. "I do not know," he says, "in history any instance of a peaceful empire established by force of arms. It is said, indeed, that the German races are averse from war. I look for the proofs in the past and see them not, and I confess that I very much doubt if the future will justify the confident expectations of those who expect the millennium to proceed from the conquest of France."

TRAITS OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA.—King William, so Dr. Russell is assured, is one of the most sensitive men in the world. Though trained to war from his youth, his feelings are so acute that his medical advisers were obliged to forbid His Majesty's visits to the wounded at the Palace. The sound of a death march or the sight of a military funeral produces a deep melancholy, and the aspect of the battle-fields on which were won his Imperial Crown and the immortal glory of Prussia and of his house and name, has made him sick nigh unto death, and quite unmanned him for many hours afterwards.

THE HISTORIAN OF ALSACE.—An interesting conversation is reported in the *Times* between M. Erckmann, of the well-known literary firm, and a correspondent of that journal at Phalsburg. M. Erckmann has returned thither with the intention of describing the "Blocus" of this year. He rather approves the idea of neutralising Alsace, in the same way as Belgium. It would be better, he says, for both France and Germany to do away with fortresses and rely on each other's good faith; and neutralisation, loyally accepted, has succeeded very well in Belgium. M. Erckmann seems to think that hitherto Alsace has not had justice done to it by France, and that a separation might lead to a better appreciation of that "grand province." For the future M. Erckmann's great apprehension is not anarchy in France, but the widening gulf between the two great races which compose the nation—the Gascon and the Breton. One of the objects of his literary career in conjunction with M. Chatrian has been to teach the French to sympathise with the German mind, and the success of his writings leads him to hope that their influence has been considerable. At a tenth of a penny on each number of the cheap edition of the novels, he and his partner have already realised 330,000 francs. Yet the *Moniteur* was ordered not to advertise the books, and they were put under a ban at railway bookstalls. The best of the stories is, he thinks, the "History of a Peasant."

DESPERATION OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE.—Writing from Bordeaux on the 17th inst., the correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* says:—"Gambetta will certainly fight to the last, while France has a man to pull a trigger and a franc with which to buy a charge of powder. But supposing he had the will to sue for peace, he would not, in the present temper of France, be Minister for twenty-four hours. Do not believe that at the present day Gambetta leads French opinion. He may have done so once, but at this moment he simply guides it and floats with the stream. Why, the very women of France would rise up against him now if he dared to whisper the word 'armistice' or 'peace.' You must know France, and know the French well enough to mix with all sorts and classes of men, in order to get below the surface and see what public opinion really is. I have seen a widow lady, the mother of three sons—one of whom was killed at Woerth, while a second is a prisoner in Germany—not only agree to her third son's joining the army as a volunteer, although he was three years below the age, but say that it was her duty to urge him to do so. I know a gentleman of what in France would be considered large fortune, who, at fifty-eight years of age, has joined as a private soldier a company of Francs-tireurs, and carries his rifle and his pack—although twenty years ago he quitted the service with the rank of colonel of Hussars—and who has sent his four sons, all save one under age, to serve as private soldiers in a cavalry regiment. Nor are these solitary or exceptional instances. Every one who was at Tours between the middle of November and the time of the exodus from that city, must have noticed, at the *table d'hôte* of the Hôtel de l'Univers, a tall, old, but hale gentleman, in the uniform of a private soldier of the Pontifical Zouaves, or, as they are now called, M. Charette's Volunteers. That veteran was the Marquis de Q——. He is seventy-eight years of age, and resigned his commission in the Royal Guards forty years ago, when Charles X. ceased to reign over France. Since 1830 he has lived on his estate at Brittany, occupying himself solely with the affairs in which a country gentleman takes delight, and rarely visiting Paris. Louis-Philippe he always called 'Philippe d'Orléans,' the men of 1848 *ces canailles*, and Napoleon III. *celui-ci*. He would as soon have taken the oath of allegiance to one or the other of those dynastics as he would have cheated at cards or told a falsehood. He has seen his children and his children's children married, and has great-grandchildren four or five years old. Until after Sedan he made no sign; but when the war became one of aggression, he joined Charette's corps as a private soldier, with no baggage but what he carries in his knapsack; he has been in every engagement on the Loire, and boasts that he has emptied at least two score of German saddles. In Brittany he was noted as a dead shot at deer, wolves, and wild boar; and he says that he finds Prussians quite as easy to kill as wild beasts. It is not a week since I saw and spoke to this wonderful old man, who, after the affair at Patay, came to Tours to get a new pair of shoes, and started next day for the front. Twenty-two years ago I visited this gentleman at his chateau in Brittany.

He was then a man of fifty-six, with married children, and one of the most scrupulous persons in dress I ever knew. When I met him at Tours he wore the coarse uniform of a private soldier, a flannel shirt far from clean-looking, and had not shaved or washed for a fortnight. Will the German armies conquer a nation in which there are men like this? They may in time, but it will cost them dear. As to the war being ended when Paris falls, I regard that as most improbable. Loss or no loss, the people of this country have determined to fight out the quarrel with Prussia, and they will keep their resolve."

A PANIC AT VERSAILLES.—Yesterday (the 21st) there was no small excitement after breakfast at the Hotel des Reservoirs, that prosperous establishment being suddenly surrounded by some fifty Prussian soldiers, who for some time could not be brought to permit either ingress or egress. Many rooms were searched vigorously for arms and also for Francs-tireurs. There was at the Hotel des Reservoirs, if I am rightly informed, a member of the French ambulance suspected of being too good a patriot; and two stand of arms were found, viz., one revolver and half an old fusil à tabatière, minus the stock, which had been brought here by a brother correspondent as a relic of the fight at Beaume-la-Rolande. In all, some eighty unfortunate Frenchmen were captured in Versailles, and a great many arms of a very miscellaneous description. So vigorous was the search for arms, that in some instances revolvers which really belonged to German soldiers were carried off by the too zealous soldiers. The captive Frenchmen will, it is said, be sent to reflect in a German fortress, and, it is probable, to wonder what they can possibly have done to be arrested. One of the officers employed in the search asked an Englishman what he was doing in Versailles? was he one of the "curiosity-mongers"? "No; I have leave to stay here as a correspondent," was the reply. "But you may not stay here for ever." "Nor will you, I hope," was the immediate answer, and the officer retired bowing. One report is that a plot on the King's life was discovered.—*Letter from Versailles.*

A DINNER WITH THE EMPEROR-MAKERS.—The correspondent of the *Daily News* with the Saxon army dined the other day with the deputation who went to offer the Imperial Crown of Germany to King William. They told me (he writes) with much feeling, how the tears had trickled down King William's cheeks when the grandest proffer of the age was made to him. They expressed with hearty warmth their pleasure that when the time came that William's son should reign in his stead, the Princess Royal of England should be Empress of Germany; and before Herr Director came to say that the train was ready, one toast was drunk, and in that all the room joined with acclamation — "Prosperity to Germany and England; may they ever be friendly!" Baron Nordeck it was who gave the toast. And then "the house adjourned" into the snug first-class carriages, "honourable members," not a few of them, showing from their pockets what one might have taken to be the muzzles of pistols designed for protection against francs-tireurs, but which in reality were the necks of wine-bottles. I could not help being amused at the gentleman who was charged with the duty of settling the reckoning. It was stiff, unquestionably—164 thalers for a simple cold luncheon for thirty-one persons. No doubt the casino-keeper would have replied to a complaint to the same effect as a Scotch changehouse-keeper is reported to have used to James VI., "Ye dinna come this gate ilka day, your Majesty." Certainly it is not often that a Lagny marketender gets a chance of cutting into the purse of the German Reichstag. The paymaster was disposed to grumble, but I ventured to point out that it was all, so to speak, in the family, since the man was a German, and since Germany was paying the cost of the delegation—a view which the good deputy, perhaps, all the readier adopted because his colleagues, getting over before him, were picking up all the best seats in the train.

A SAD INCIDENT.—The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent at Versailles, speaking of the fighting round Beaugency, says:—"The little town was shelled for a time, as you are aware; and I will take leave to relate one inexpressibly sad episode of the bombardment. A French gentleman of the neighbourhood—a truer servant of the Cross than many that bear it on their arms—had volunteered his services as a bearer and *infirmier*. During the actions he had been busy in the field, bringing in under heavy fire wounded of both nations; amongst others a Prussian soldier, whom he attended, before the town was captured, in an extempore hospital established in a private house. He was standing by the bed of his suffering enemy, ministering to his wants, when a shell struck the house, penetrated the wall of the room in which the ward was situated, and burst, not injuring any of the patients, but carrying off both legs of the good Frenchman, who fell, never to rise again. The wounded Prussian managed to get out of bed, though badly hurt, and endeavoured to staunch the blood of his benefactor, over whose dead body he was subsequently found, sobbing like a little child. Could there be a more glorious death?"

FRENCH TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY THE GERMANS.—A letter from Bordeaux says: — "To understand properly the magnitude of the Prussian occupation of France, it would be necessary to draw a line on the map from Nevers passing through Normandy by Rouen. All, or nearly all, to north and eastward of that line is now under Prussian rule, and is fast becoming a howling wilderness, owing to the requisitions of the conquerors. Of the finest and most industrious towns in the country, Amiens, Orleans, Rouen, Blois, Rheims, Sedan, Mézières, Metz, Nancy, Dijon, and Besançon are already in the hands of the enemy."

GERMAN BARBARITIES.—A Westphalian artilleryman, writing from the neighbourhood of Chatillon-sur-Seine, says:—"The war is assuming a more and more cruel and barborous character. Two days ago, for instance, Nogent, between Chaumont and Langres, was burned by us. Our troops had been fired on from several houses, and on a larger band being sent to punish this by a contribution, it was also fired on, and driven from the place. A terrible revenge speedily followed. Yesterday six francs-tireurs were brought in at Chateau Villain, who had fired on our outposts, and even killed a soldier, from an ambush. The fellows were not in uniform, and looked quite wild; they will be shot, as also the twelve taken two days ago in the large wood which extends from Chateau Villain to Langres."—A correspondent at Bordeaux writes:—"A French lady, belonging to a family with an historical name, just passed through Bordeaux, and told a friend of mine that at her chateau, not far from Dijon, the Prussian officers had taken away nearly all her valuable furniture, and particularly all her lamps, in order to form a casino or beerhouse for themselves in the neighbourhood. Her spring mattresses, and all the blankets, coverlets, and such things, amounting in value to many thousand francs, were seized and used by the Prussian soldiers. Petty deeds of overpowering military tyranny like this have made the very name of Prussia execrated in France, and aroused in this country hatred and vengeance that will not be forgotten for the next hundred years. No one who has not lived in France and among French people can possibly realise how deeply these feelings have taken root in men of all sorts and conditions."—Between St. Germain and Mantes there is a sad sign of the passage of the Germans in the shape of a burnt village. Mézières is the name of the place, and its history is simply this:—As some Bavarian soldiers were passing through, an inhabitant fired upon them. Called upon to give up the offender, they showed themselves either unable or unwilling to do so; whereupon the Bavarians lighted Mézières by hand, so that now not one-third of the huts and houses which composed it a few weeks ago are still standing.

CLOTHING THE PRUSSIAN OUTPOSTS.—The late bitterly cold weather has evidently stimulated the German Government to fresh exertions in furnishing the troops with winter clothing. All the sentries on duty have black cloth gloves, which are capitally adopted to their purpose, the right-hand one having a separate forefinger for the trigger, the other three fingers being in an undivided bag, which is much warmer than the ordinary glove. Nearly all the soldiers have, in addition to their great-coats, been provided with a blanket for really cold weather.—*Letter from Versailles.*

A GOOD STORY FROM PARIS.—*Apropos* of prisoners an amusing story is told of a sailor who in a recent combat had the luck to capture a Prussian subaltern. On the road to Paris the latter asked his captor, who had been chaffing him unmercifully on the length of time the Prussians took to reduce the city, "How do you fare in your capital?" "How do we fare?—why, first-rate," was the reply. "Then your oxen are not yet exhausted, as we imagined they were?" "Oxen! oh, they have been eaten long since." "You have large flocks of sheep, then?" "No, indeed, they disappeared simultaneously with the bullocks." "Ah! I understand; you have still your horses to fall back on." "I wish we had; we devoured them long since." "What the devil do you eat, then?" was the astonished inquiry. "What do we eat?" replied the sailor, with the greatest gravity in the world; "have you not heard in your camp?" "No." "Why, we eat our prisoners, of course, and find them delicious." The young Prussian turned pale at the thought, and did not venture another remark till his arrival at his destination.—*Letter from Paris.*

PRINCE FREDERICK CHARLES'S DINNERS AT PITHIVIERS.—All Englishmen who like fine eating and who ever have been in Paris know of the existence of Chevet at the Palais Royal, and Chevet is famous, among other things, for magnificent Pithiviers pies of partridges and larks. The best of these pies are prepared by a M. Maitre, proprietor of the Hotel de la Poste of that town. Gastronomists all over the world know his name well, and, although no gastronomists ourselves, we could not miss the opportunity of making the acquaintance of this gentleman as well as of his art of cooking. True, that six hours' drive in a forest and in considerable frost gave us an appetite such as is seldom given to mortals; but still the reception which M. Maitre gave us would have seemed hospitable even to less hungry people. The lunch he served us would be something very near to perfection even in time of peace, and he was all the time joking at the long tables of Prussian officers who were sitting in the next room and eating the most common and indigestible food the German stomach has ever had to work out. While lunch was going on, the hotel-keeper revealed to us that he had been for seventeen days (from the 16th of November till the 2nd of December) the host of Prince Frederick Charles and the whole of his staff, amounting sometimes to forty officers. The Prince was living at the Chateau de Touches, but M. Maitre had to provide him with dinner, breakfast, supper, and so on. The Prince breakfasted at seven, lunched at twelve, dined at half-past seven, and had besides at night a collation—the whole for himself and staff; and the number of bottles of Bordeaux drank during this time was 630 of the best brand. There was also an urgent demand for champagne, but as there was none to be had in the town at any price whatever, the staff was forced to import it itself. That the Prince dined comfortably may be seen by the menu, which was shown to me. No one will say that the staff suffered any considerable privations, and we must all be only glad of the comfort they enjoyed. What is not satisfactory is that the bill was not paid, and it amounted to 7,400 francs. Count Bismark is reported as paying for every piece of bread and every bottle of wine that he or those under him take; but, according to poor M. Maitre, it would seem that it is not always the case with the German army, and that, besides imposig heavy contributions, they sometimes allow themselves indulgences of the above description. The German theory is that the town is bound to feed and lodge so and so many men; but, then, a line ought to be drawn in what way these men are to live, and whether the commanders of armies are included in the number of men. I hope that Prince Frederick Charles will somehow be informed that there is some one expecting an acknowledgment of what he and his staff consumed during a fortnight's stay in Pithiviers.—*Letter in the Pall Mall Gazette.*

MR. HENRY RICHARD, M.P., AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last week Mr. Henry Richard, M.P., delivered a series of addresses to his constituents of the united boroughs of Merthyr Tydfil, Dowlais, Hirwain, and Aberdare. At each place he received a very hearty welcome, and resolutions of "unbounded satisfaction" of his Parliamentary conduct were carried unanimously.

At Dowlais, where he was received with much enthusiasm, Mr. Richard commenced by reviewing the measures of the past session, and explaining his votes. With regard to the motion of Mr. Watkin Williams for the disestablishment of the Welsh Church, he said that, while disapproving of the time and manner chosen for bringing forward this measure, it was his intention to sustain Mr. Williams by his voice, but Mr. Gladstone put his foot upon the motion in so decided a manner that the House was not disposed to listen to any one else. Mr. Richard went on to say:—"I am becoming more and more convinced that in reference to ecclesiastical subjects that come before the House, there is nothing for us as Dissenters except by going to the root of the matter. Burial Bills, Chapel Sites Bills, University Tests Bills, all these are only aimed at branches of the great corrupt tree. We must determine to lay the axe at the root of the tree. I forewarn critics against wilfully misrepresenting what I state. I have not a word to say against the Church as a spiritual institution; my quarrel is only with the Establishment. I say that this Church Establishment meets me at every point; it thrusts itself into every discussion; it impedes and hinders every measure of Liberal and progressive legislation. No movement can be set on foot, whether religious, or social, or educational, that is not more or less complicated and embarrassed by the pretensions of the predominant Church. Therefore we must, for the sake of our own privileges as Nonconformists, for the sake of liberty and progress, raise up our voices against this master evil of the age, and demand that the Church be delivered from her bonds, and stand in the freedom whereby Christ has made her free. (Loud cheers.) You are aware that my friend Mr. Miall has given notice to raise the whole question of Church Establishment, not only in Wales, but also in England. Of course no one can expect that a resolution of that kind can be carried at once, but the time has come for opening the discussion; and there is nothing so effectual for enlightening the population as a discussion in the House of Commons. I am glad that my friend has mustered courage to give notice of the motion, and if opportunity offers I will do my best to support him." (Cheers.) The hon. member proceeded to refer at some length to the course he had taken in reference to the Education Bill of last session:—"There is no public man course whose I have watched with more interest and sympathy than that of Mr. Forster. He belongs to the great middle class, to which I have the honour to belong myself, and he has conferred honour upon it by taking an honourable and distinguished place in the administration of the affairs of the country. He was also brought up among those who might be regarded as constituting what Mr. Burke calls the 'dissidence of Dissent and the Protestantism of the Protestant religion.' Yet, with such antecedents, Mr. Forster, in the construction of that bill, displayed either an entire ignorance of our principles as Nonconformists, or a determination to disregard them. At the same time I am bound to say this, that nothing could exceed the consummate ability, temper, and tact with which he conducted the measure through the House, and I believe his intentions were upright; but there were things in the bill which rendered it impossible for me, as a Nonconformist, to agree to it without a protest. The first edition of the bill I liked better than the second, for under that there was a possibility of bringing all the schools of the country—those that are called denominational as well as the new ones to be established—under the cognisance and direction of the School Board, and so in process of time I thought it would be possible to have a uniform and universal system of national education; and I believe it would have been a great advantage for young Englishmen and Welshmen to be brought together on the forms of the same schools to learn certain things in common, without having thrust on them the sectarian differences by which society is racked. It seems to me that the new form of the bill established a complete and lasting distinction between two kinds of schools in the country—the denominational schools and those

that were to be under the School Boards; and with reference to the latter, the bill gave to the Boards the power of dealing with the question of religious instruction, with no protection whatever for the rights of conscience except such as were afforded by the clause forbidding the catechism to be taught in the schools. That is not an adequate protection, because in the hundreds of parishes in the rural districts of England the School Board will be the clergyman and the squire, and they will have the power to order any kind of religious instruction to be imparted in the school—it may be the views of Bishop Colenso or of old Dr. Pusey; they may teach as much as they like, if it is not in the form of the catechism; and there are even catechisms, prepared by clergymen, a thousand times worse than the catechism of the Church of England. (Hear, hear.) There is nothing to prevent their introduction in the schools. I am not going to pronounce an anathema on any views of the Church of England: there should be perfect liberty of teaching for all men. But I do object to a man putting his hand into my pocket and taking my money to teach that which I believe to be deadly error. That is the cardinal injustice of the bill: it gives power to the School Board to order at the public expense any religious instruction they may think fit—such instruction, for instance, as brands Dissenters as schismatics and all Dissenting forms as blasphemies. I say it is inconsistent with liberty and the principles of Nonconformity to give our consent to a system like this, which would compel Nonconformists to pay a rate in support of a religious system which they abhor. (Cheers.) I thought there was that in the bill which conflicted with our principles, which assert, if I mistake not, that the State, whether represented by the Imperial Parliament, or by a local parliament called a School Board, has no right to levy taxes or rates on the whole community to teach the religious tenets of one sect, or, what is still worse, the religious tenets of all sects. (Renewed cheering.) I was as well disposed to accept a measure of national education as any man in the House of Commons; but I knew there was nothing more dangerous than for men to be tempted under specious pretexts to betray their principles by a 'side wind.' I was afraid we should be in the condition of soldiers on guard, to whom an insidious person offers a palatable but narcotic draught to lull them to sleep, in order that the enemy may steal their weapons. Our principles are the weapons by which our forefathers fought and won many a victory for us, and by which we are to fight and complete the victory of religious liberty in this country. We must not part with our principles for any advantage, nor for any project o education; we shall want them again soon, for there are conflicts looming not very far in the distance when those principles will be of the utmost valu to us. If we consent to a scheme which takes any money out of the general taxation and applies it to teaching religion in schools, how can we object to its being done with respect to churches? I say let the Government teach the children the elements of ordinary education—reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, grammar, chemistry, and as much as they like in that direction, but don't let them attempt what they can never do, and which lies beyond their province and competency to do—that which Christ has entrusted, under solemn responsibilities, to His own Church. There are 60,000 or 70,000 men in this kingdom who have no reason to assign for their existence except that the exist to teach religion to the people. Why, then does the State take the work out of their hands? The logical position is, that if the schoolmaster takes a share of the responsibilities, he ought to have a share of the endowments. I am sure I have no reason to complain of the spirit in which my statement with reference to education was received in the House of Commons. There was no attempt on the part of anybody to fling against me the absurd charges made out of doors, against some holding similar views on this question, of being infidels, godless, and despisers of the Bible. Indeed, Mr. Gladstone himself, in concluding the debate, generously referred to me, saying he was satisfied that my amendment was compatible with the most earnest and zealous respect for religion, and that it was that very zeal and earnestness which had prompted me to the course I had taken. Mr. Gladstone afterwards confessed to me that he thought the right solution of the difficulty lay in the direction of the amendment. (Hear, hear.) There is one conclusion I have come to in reference to the discussions taking place in the House of Commons on topics bearing on the rights of Dissenters, and that is, we must, as Nonconformists, trust very much to ourselves, and that we are not sure of anything, to use an expression from the Old Testament, but what we can 'take out of the hand of the Amorite with our own sword and bow.' I believe the present Government are as liberal as any we have had in this country; at the same time it is a Government of Churchmen—do not let us forget that. The only member who is a Nonconformist was unhappily absent from the House; and I learn with sorrow and regret that, owing to continued indisposition, that gentleman (Mr. Bright) has been obliged to resign his place in the Government. He was the only man who could understand and represent our principles in the Cabinet. We must bear in mind that whatever measure bearing on our rights is introduced, is introduced by Churchmen, who naturally lean to their own Church; and the only moral I draw from this is—we must trust to ourselves, and not lean upon an arm of flesh; we must confide in our principles, and hold fast, staunchly and resolutely to them, not conceding anything where they are involved; and in the long run we shall make good our stand in the face of every disadvantage." (Cheers.) Mr. Richard then turned to the subject of the war between France and Prussia, perhaps the most destructive in a short time of life, of property, of happiness, and of morals, of any war known in history:—'An able statistician who is a friend of mine, Professor Leone Levi, has calculated that if we take into account the money actually spent by these two nations that are engaged in the conflict, and then, secondly, the value of the property destroyed—the cattle, the crops, the towns, the villages, the public buildings, the railways, the telegraphs, the houses, the factories, and so on—and add to that, moreover, the loss arising from suspended production, ruined trade, and deranged commerce, and finally the loss of what might be called human power—the mere money value of the lives sacrificed—he calculates that this war, during the last five months, has cost already one thonsand millions of pounds sterling. (Shame, shame.) We shall not exaggerate if we say that a quarter of a million of human beings have been destroyed. I was only reading a day or two ago as account published by a gentleman, a member of the Society of Friends, who have been raising a large fund to relieve the miserable peasants in North-Eastern France that have suffered from this war, and he had over one spot counted 18,000 graves. Yes; 250,000 human beings condemned to an agonising and premature death, not by the will of God or the laws of nature, but by the wanton wickedness and folly of their fellow-men. But who shall measure the mental and moral agony in the 10,000 quiet homes of their relatives and friends; the agony endured by innocent and loving hearts there; the pang of separation when those they loved were sent forth to encounter all the hazards and horrors of the battle-field; the days and nights of sickening suspense, when longing yet dreading to hear tidings of the absent ones; the terrible agony of despair when the news at length arrives which smites their hearts with terror and quenches the light of their life Who can estimate that? (Cheers.) Above all who can estimate the deteriorating and debasing influences upon the moral life and character of these great nations—the contempt of human life, the overflow of ferocious and malignant passions! Is it not enough to make every man pour forth the prayer from the depth of his very heart, 'Scatter them, O God, who delight in war!' (Cheers.) What are the lessons of this war in reference to us? One of the lessons is this, that the nations of Europe should find some means of protecting their own interests and disposing of their own destinies, instead of leaving them, as they are now left, to the dynastic ambition of kings and princes and the selfish intrigues of statesmen and diplomatists. In every country which professes to have anything of a constitutional and representative form of Government, the people themselves should have a voice in the measures adopted by their rulers. Matters of small moment, such as a railway or a telegraph, receive consideration; but in reference to the most momentous of all transactions in the national life of the people, that which pledges their blood, their treasure, their reputation, and their morals, the people have no voice. I say some method should be devised whereby questions of this kind could be referred to the votes of the nations themselves. Surely when matters of such unspeakable moment as these are concerned, there are others besides emperors, kings, prime ministers, diplomatists, admirals, and generals, who are entitled to have a voice in the matter. Are the great masses of the people whose blood is to be shed like water, and whose treasure is to be squandered in the worst of all possible ways—the working men who are to be turned out of employment and made paupers—the peasants whose homes are to be burned and their fields laid waste—the inhabitants of cities, who are to be bombarned or starved out by famine—the manufacturers whose business is to be ruined, the merchants whose commerce is to be swept away—the mothers, the daughters, the wives, the sisters, whose hearts and homes are to be stricken with eternal desolation—are these to be driven like cattle in any enterprise which the folly and wickedness of their rulers may devise? (Loud cheers.) Unhappily there is no way of bringing these great criminals to account. To them the suffering caused by the havoc they make is of small moment. Conquerors among them are crowned with laurels, laden with honours, and hailed with acclamations; they have heaped upon them tilles, pensions, and peerages; statues and monuments are erected for them; all of which are to be provided and paid for out of the exhausted resources of the people whom they have already impoverished. Even those who fall in the bloody game they have provoked are treated with tenderness and respect; they are still left to enjoy some of the royal power they have abused, and allowed to live the rest of their days in abundance and luxury. I should like to see a tribunal of men, chosen from those who are victims of the war—a tribunal of ruined tradesmen, starving mechanics, houseless peasants, and orphaned sons—before which the authors of these wars should be arraigned. I should like to see such men as Gramont, Lebœuf, Bismark, Moltke, William, and Louis Napoleon arraigned before a tribunal of the people upon the charge of having compassed the death of a quarter of a million of human beings; and if after inquiry the verdict went against them, although I am strenuously opposed to capital punishment, I am not sure that I would not waive my objection in their case. (Cheers.) I think another lesson of this war is, that enormous military preparations are not preservatives of peace, but procatives of war. There is a proverb which says, 'If you wish for peace, prepare for war.' It is just as reasonable to say, 'If you wish for sobriety, prepare for drunkenness.' Well, for twenty years what has been going on in Europe? I believe that the military expenditure of Europe has doubled itself within the last twenty years. And with respect to the cost of these armaments, considering in the first place the money actually and directly spent upon the military and naval forces of the state of Europe, secondly the interest of the money that is squandered so unprofitably, and thirdly the loss to the world by the withdrawal of so many millions of men from the occupation of industry, my deliberate conviction is that the military establishment of Europe draws from the earnings of the people an account of at least 400,000,000*l.* sterling every year. (Shame, shame). Well, this has been going on in an enormous ratio every year, and when we have objected to it, when we have complained of the prodigality and immorality of such expenditure, we have had this lying old proverb flung in our faces, 'If you wish for peace prepare for war.' Well Europe has been preparing for war at that rate for twenty years, and what has been the result? Has it preserved peace? No. Instead of that we have had during those twenty years five bloody and desolating wars, which have sacrificed a million and a half human lives. I say it is an insult to common sense, to reason, to the experience of mankind, to say if you wish for peace prepare for war. I say on the contrary, if you wish for peace prepare for peace—(cheers)—cultivate peace, recognise peace—aye in the language of the old apostle "seek peace and pursue it," and the best way to do it is this: Let the people of every country in Europe speedily raise a shout that will deafen the ears of their rulers—and I believe the great bulk of the people in all the countries of Europe are prepared to follow if we in this country have but the moral courage to begin—and that shout should be "Disarm! disarm!! disarm!!!" (Loud cheers.) But instead of that what is the lesson that certain classes in this country are trying to draw from this war? That we must raise enormous additions to our naval and military preparations, and as I have said before, I fear this is the sort of thing we shall have to encounter during the next session. What occurred at the close of the last session within a week of breaking up? You know that the present Government, honestly trying to redeem the promises which it gave to the country of reducing the national expenditure, had actually made a reduction in the cost of the army of about 2,000,000*l.* and nearly as much in the navy—yet just as we were breaking up there was such an outcry by the military classes in the house and out of it, that the Government, weakly, I think and say it with regret, because I am generally a strenuous supporter of the Government—yielded to this clamour, and they came and swept away by one vote all the savings of the year—they asked Parliament to vote the expenditure of 2,000,000*l* in order to add 2,000 men to the army—and in the House of Commons, supposed to represent the economical interests of the people, only seven were found who had the courage to withstand that vote. I was one, I am happy to tell you. (Cheers.) And now they are projecting all kinds of things, and mark the stupidity of this outcry at this moment. Mr. Bruce made a speech on visiting his constituents in Scotland that struck me as one of the most sensible and courageous speeches ever made by a Minister. (Loud cheering.) He said this—I do not pretend to report his actual words, but I give you the substance of his remarks—what need is there that we should throw ourselves into this state of alarm with regard to our national defences? It appears to me that England was never in so little danger as at this moment. France, usually regarded as our most dangerous neighbour, is engaged in a conflict from which she is sure to emerge exhausted to the utmost, and no man can believe that she will attack us in such a condition; and as for Prussia, what can she do? She has no sea board, no navy from which and with which to conduct an attack, and even if she had, what is to become of our own navy upon which we have spent so much money to make it efficient? I say that speech of Mr. Bruce has never been answered, men have shrieked at it, panic-mongers have abused him, but his argument remains irrefragable. (Loud cheers.) I say, then, never was there a time when England need be under so little apprehension. Those two nations are engaged in a death struggle, and they will have plenty of work on their hands without provoking the wrath of so great a power as England. Yet there are people who are demanding from the Government an unlimited expenditure, and what is more and worse they are contemplating the introduction into this country of some form of compulsory military service. (Shame, shame.) They talk of having the ballot in the militia—(hear, hear, and shame);—they talk of having coercive enlistment in the army, and some go so far as to say we must introduce the Prussian system, and what is that? I will tell you. In Prussia every young man when he attains the age of eighteen, it matters not what position in life he occupies, or what his prospects may be, or what engagements he may have made, the law comes in, lays its hand on his shoulder, drags him from home, occupation, business, prospects—everything, and compels him to enter the army for seven years, three of which are devoted to learning the trade of blood, and four in the reserve, where he is liable to be called out every year to be drilled for forty years, he is liable to be called upon to serve in the army in case of war. It matters not where he may be; he may be settled in this country or in America in the midst of a flourishing business, but if war breaks out and the summons goes forth he is bound to abandon all and return to the ranks on pain of three years' imprisonment should he return to his country afterwards; and in case of his refusing to return, the forfeiture of all his property and civil rights. Are

you prepared for this odious military tyranny here? (Loud shouts of no). I thank you for that no. Are you prepared to see a son, the pride of your life, over whose opening character many of you have watched with prayers and tears, are you prepared to see this young man, when growing up in the bloom of youth and manhood, hurried away to the contaminating life of camp and barrack. (No, no.) Well then, when the time comes, if it should come, that this project is seriously proposed, I hope you will send that shout of 'no,' up to St. Stephen's. (The hon. gentleman resumed his seat amid loud and prolonged cheering.)

THE EDUCATION ACT.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.

The second meeting of the London School Board on Wednesday afternoon was attended by forty-seven members. The committee appointed at the previous meeting to consider what officers would be needed for the immediate business of the board, and to define their duties and suggest their salaries, presented their report, which recommended the appointment of a clerk, who should devote his whole time to the work, and receive a salary of 800*l.* a year, and four assistants, the first for the statistical department, at a salary of 350*l.* a year; the second for the accountant's department, at 250*l.*; the third for the minuting and shorthand writing department, at 200*l.*; and the fourth, as a junior clerk, at 100*l.* a year; their whole time in each case to be devoted to the business of the board. The committee also recommended that the Governor and Company of the Bank of England should be requested to act as the treasurers of the board. A long discussion ensued on the subject of the salary proposed to be given to the secretary. Professor Huxley thought 800*l.* too little, and moved that the salary be fixed at 1,000*l.* He was supported by Mr. Macgregor, Dr. Miller, Dr. Barry, and Lord Sandon; while the recommendation of the committee was supported by Mr. M'Arthur, Dr. Rigg, Mr. Charles Reed, Mr. W. H. Smith, the chairman, and others. Mr. Lucraft, on the other hand, contended that 800*l.* was too high a salary, and said he thought they would get just as good a man for 500*l.* as for 1000*l.* Ultimately Professor Huxley's proposal was negatived by 35 to 11, and the report of the committee adopted. A committee was appointed to examine the qualifications of the candidates for the appointments, and to select not more than six in each case for presentation to the board, and another committee was formed, at the instance of Sir Thomas Tilson, to frame regulations for the conduct of the business of the board. Professor Huxley gave notice that at the first meeting after the recess he would move that a select committee be appointed to consider the scheme of education to be adopted in the public elementary schools, and Lord Sandon gave notice of a motion to refer to the Officers' Committee the question of appointing a private secretary for the chairman. The board, after sitting four hours, adjourned to the 5th of January.

It is said that the London School Board will prepare a set of rules and regulations, which will be sent to the other school boards, so that the opinions of the whole country may be obtained in respect to arrangements which have a general and not a merely local application.

Mr. J. M. Hare, of St. John's College, Cambridge, a Wrangler in the Tripos of 1854, is a candidate for the appointment of clerk to the London School Board. Mr. Hare was employed in an important subordinate capacity under the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Popular Education in 1858.

Mr. George Potter has forwarded to Mr. Forster a protest against the decision of the Education Department not to inquire into the alleged irregularities of some of the elections to the school board in London. Mr. Potter reminds the Government of the interest which the working classes took in placing them in power, of the lack of support accorded to working men's candidates by the Treasury, and points out the difficulties which he must surmount before he can appeal to a court of law in respect to the contested seat. He concludes by expressing his conviction that every class except that of the working men possesses an advantage which there is in the Government no wish or will to redress.

THE PROVINCES.

STRATFORD.—On Friday night a vestry meeting was held at the Town Hall, Stratford, to receive the result of a poll on the question of forming a school board in the parish. At a meeting held on the preceding Friday evening, Sir Antonio Brady moved, and the Rev. J. S. Curwen seconded, a resolution, "that this meeting requests that application be made forthwith to the Educational Department to cause a school board to be formed in the parish." The motion was carried by an immense majority, when a poll was demanded and fixed for the following Tuesday and Wednesday. At the close of the poll, 977 had voted in favour of the resolution and 561 against being a majority of 416.

In Devon and Cornwall the elementary education question has been discussed by public meetings in several towns and villages within the last few days, and since Wednesday the voluntary principle has been adopted at Dawlish, Ilsington, Wendron, Sithney, Marazion, Pelyn, and Lifton; at the last-named place one person has munificently offered to supply sufficient school accommodation for the parish, the estimates for which amount to about 900*l.* School boards have been adopted at Helston, Launceston, Liskeard, and East and West Looe. Devonport has also applied, through the Town Council, for a Board; at a public meeting it was stated that there were ninety schools in the borough, and forty of them were rooms in which people lived, and in many cases slept. Four teachers had been found who could not write, and who, instead of writing their names, had simply put marks. Accommodation would have to be provided for about 2,000 children.

An adjourned meeting of the Edinburgh Town Council was held on Saturday, when the debate on the education question was resumed. Four divisions took place, the result being that the following motion, by Bailie Lewis, was adopted:—"The Magistrates and Council resolve to memorialise Her Majesty's Government to introduce and, with the aid of the Legislature, pass into law in the ensuing session of Parliament a bill to regulate our national education in Scotland, by providing a popular, unsectarian, and undenominational system, embracing, among others, the following provisions:—1. The formation of a General Board of Education in Scotland, which should be elected by public bodies elected by popular representation, or by local committees grouped for that purpose, and whose meetings should be held in public. 2. That all the existing parochial schools and other schools receiving Government aid should as soon as possible be converted into national schools, and that all national schools should be supported by grants from Government and local rates. 3. Wherever a parochial school is converted into a national school, the funds hitherto payable by the heritors for the support of the school should be ascertained, and applied towards the reduction of the school rate. 4. In every parish the heritors and ratepayers should elect a local school committee, who should fix the branches of education to be taught and, subject to an appeal to the general board, to regulate the management of the schools. 5. That the school committee in burghs be elected by the town councils, either from among their own number, to the extent of one-half, or otherwise; and in all burghs numbering 50,000 inhabitants or upwards, the school committee should not be under thirteen in number. 6. That no sum be paid, either from public funds or local rates, to any school not conducted as a national school. 7. That while the Bible shall be retained in the schools of Scotland, its reading shall be left to be regulated by the local school committees, it being understood that a conscience-clause be embodied in the bill. 8. That compulsory education should be provided for in the proposed Education Bill for Scotland. Further resolve that copies of the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., the Right Hon. the Lord Advocate, and the members for the city. Remit to the Lord Provost's committee to arrange for public meeting and deputation to Lord Advocate and Her Majesty's Government to carry these resolutions into effect, and to report what further steps it might be desirable to take to forward this important object."

OFFICIAL NOTICES.

The Committee of Council on Education have, through their Secretary, Sir F. Sandford, addressed a letter to the new school boards on the duties which devolve upon them. It is proposed to place in the hands of every school board the general return for the borough, and the special forms which have been, or may still be, sent in by the individual schools referred to in that return. Possibly some few schools have not filled up the requisite forms; but it is believed that the inquiry made by each town council has been an exhaustive one, and the labours of the public officers of boroughs will probably save much time and trouble in this part of their duties. After careful examination of the returns, and after such further investigation as they may consider necessary, the boards will furnish a report to the Education Department, showing:—1. The number of children within the municipal limits for whom means of elementary education should be provided, between the hours of three and five, and between the ages of five and thirteen. 2. The provision to meet the requirements of these children which the board considers to be already supplied by efficient schools, or likely to be supplied by schools either contemplated or in course of erection. 3. The deficiency (if any) in the supply of efficient elementary education for the borough, as shown by comparing one and two. 4. By means of what schools the board would propose to supply this deficiency. 5. The precise localities in which such schools will be needed. Detailed information is further required, for which it will be necessary to prepare separate schedules, to be appended to the report. It will necessarily take some time to obtain the information required for these returns, which, when sent to the head department, should be accompanied by a map of the borough showing the position of each of the schools referred to in the schedules. The local knowledge, however, the number, and constitution of the board will enable them, with the aid of such assistants as they may employ for the purpose, to complete the inquiry now committed to them at a much earlier date than if it were undertaken by the Education Department.

Regulations having application to school boards in country parishes have been issued from the Education Department of the Privy Council. With respect to nominations the Order guards against any misunderstanding as to the number of candidates which may be nominated by any two ratepayers by specifically providing that "any two ratepayers of the parish may nominate as a candidate any *one* person of full age." It was necessary to clear away all doubt on the subject, and the introduction of the article in this Order shows that the Education Department intended to limit the number of nominations by the same ratepayers.

Postscript.

Wednesday, December 28th, 1870.

THE WAR.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE BOMBARDMENT OF THE PARIS FORTS.

(From the *Daily News* Correspondent.)

BERLIN, Dec. 27.

The bombardment of the Paris forts was opened to-day with an attack on Mont Avron. There has been great rejoicings here in consequence of this event. The attack on the other forts is to follow.

GONESSE, Christmas Day.

Sluggish firing has taken place at intervals all day, indeed, ever since midnight. The troops here were alarmed but were not called out. On the 21st inst. sixty men of the Queen Elizabeth Regiment were taken prisoners outside Le Bourget. The French have sent back a captured ambulance. One of the medical men reports that the German prisoners were well treated, and supplied plentifully with coffee, cognac, sugar, and wine. The meat served out to them was horseflesh. The men are at St. Denis. The French officers are without cigars. A single shell yesterday killed and wounded fourteen men of the 1st Regiment of the Guards at Pont Iblon. The weather is terribly cold.

From Versailles we learn that General Manteuffel reached Albert on Christmas Day in pursuit of the French Army of the North.

There has been a review of from 15,000 to 20,000 National Guards at Bordeaux, and a speech to the men from M. Cremieux, who declared that the Republic alone could and would save France.

General Chanzy, in an order of the day to his troops, communicates the text of a protest sent by him to-day, under flag of truce, to the officer commanding the Prussian forces at Vendome. General Chanzy adds that he is sure every one will share his indignation and his desire to take revenge for the insults heaped upon the French nation.

MR. GLADSTONE AND HIS TRADUCERS.—In reply to a letter asking Mr. Gladstone whether he would allow to remain uncontradicted a report that he had joined the Church of Rome, the right hon. gentleman, through his private secretary, states that he cannot undertake to contradict that or any other imputation which is alike foolish and insulting. "He is quite content to leave this matter to the good sense of his countrymen; for if his acts do not confute such imputations, he is convinced that his words will not do so."

THE NONCONFORMISTS OF LIVERPOOL.—A preliminary meeting of Nonconformists was held some short time since in Liverpool with a view of securing the combined action of the body in reference to all local and imperial questions affecting them. It having been determined at that meeting to hold a public one for the same object, a meeting was accordingly held yesterday, under the presidency of Mr. J. J. Stitt, there being representatives of various Nonconformist sections present. After some discussion relative to the questions of public interest affecting Nonconformists, in the course of which the Education Act was principally referred to, it was resolved that a committee be formed, whose duty it shall be to watch the progress of questions affecting religious liberty, and to convene deliberative meetings in relation to them when it shall seem to them desirable. At a public meeting of the Nonconformists of Liverpool yesterday, it was stated during the course of the proceedings that a greater danger than any the body had been exposed to for a long time was now threatening them, as the principles for which they were doing battle for years were likely to be invaded in connection with the new Education Act. It was said that, if things went on as they promised to do at the school boards, religious endowments would be revived in a most objectionable form by the payment of a schoolmaster to teach a particular religion. In that case it was felt that conscientious obstacles might arise to the payment of the school-rate.

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

The grain-trade to-day was again depressed, but prices throughout ruled firm. There was a limited supply of English wheat on sale. The arrivals from abroad were only moderate. The trade was rather more active, and prices occasionally experienced a slight advance. Barley was in limited supply. Grinding descriptions, in sympathy with maize, was rather firmer, but malting qualities, owing to their inferiority, were difficult to dispose of, at previous currencies. Malt ruled quiet, at late rates. There was a good show of oats on the stands, which sold with more animation, at an advance of from 6d. to 1s per quarter. Beans, peas, and maize experienced a fair sale, at the extreme quotations of Monday last. Flour was disposed of quietly, at firm rates.

THE LIQUOR TRAFFIC.—The Chief Secretary for Ireland on Wednesday received a deputation from the Association for closing public-houses on Sunday. After hearing the arguments advanced, Mr. Fortescue promised that a Licensing Bill should be introduced next session; but, reminding the deputation that their views were those of only a section of the community, and that public convenience and the affording of opportunities for innocent enjoyment were also matters to be considered, he added that he could not pledge the Government to the introduction of a bill for the entire closing of public-houses on Sunday.

TO ADVERTISERS.

The Terms for Advertising in THE NONCONFORMIST are as follows:—

One Line	A Shilling.
Each additional Line . .	Sixpence.

There are, on an average, eight words in a line.

LEADER PAGE.

An extra charge of 2s. 6d. for every ten lines or under.

Published by ARTHUR MIALL (to whom it is requested that all Post-office Orders may be made payable), 18, Bouverie-Street, Fleet-street, E.C.

Advertisers of all classes will find THE NONCONFORMIST a valuable Medium for their announcements.

THE NONCONFORMIST is registered for transmission abroad.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

	£	s.	d.
Yearly	1	3	10
Half-yearly	0	12	0
Quarterly	0	6	0

** Where any difficulty is experienced in obtaining copies with regularity from the Newsvendor, the Subscriber will find his cause of complaint removed by ordering a stamped copy direct from the Publishing-office.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"Noncon."—Received. We return him heartfelt thanks, and wish him "a happy New Year."

"Fort Beaufort. J.D."—1*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* received.

The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1870.

SUMMARY.

THE Christmas weather has been "seasonable"—that is, we have had a severe frost and a considerable fall of snow, which are enjoyable enough to the vigorous and well-to-do, but mean privation and hardship to the poor. It is the severest Christmas known for many years. The snow lies around London several inches deep, without signs of disappearance; the Thames is filled with blocks of ice which float up and down with the tide, and have greatly restricted navigation; many other rivers are partially frozen; and the northern counties have been visited by a heavy snowstorm. Happily our working classes are generally in a prosperous condition, and have apparently enjoyed their wintry holiday and its home pleasures. But the continuance of the frost will throw great numbers out of employ, who will not lack that help which is always forthcoming for the destitute at this season. It is a comfort to think that at no former period has there been a better organisation for dispensing the liberal contributions of the benevolent, or a more effective machinery of legal poor relief.

Frost and snow hardly interrupt the operations of the terrible war in France. We have not heard of any engagement on Christmas Day itself, when a tacit truce seems to have been observed. Otherwise there has been fighting somewhere all the week. On Wednesday General Trochu made another desperate attempt to break out of Paris on the north-east, but without success. One or two advanced positions, such as Le Bourget, were occupied for a time, but the French were driven back under shelter of their guns. The object of this abortive sortie appears to have been to co-operate with General Faidherbe, who, with the Army of the North, 60,000 strong, essayed to force his way to the capital by way of La Fère and Soissons, but was met at Corbie by General Manteuffel. On Friday a battle was fought at that place which was chiefly an artillery duel, and without decisive results. Though the Germans are said to have been victorious, and to have captured prisoners, they inflicted little loss on the French Mobiles, who retired with their artillery at leisure, and are now safe under the bastions of Arras. Probably they will now endeavour to attack the main line of the German communications. Friday's battle was fought in a storm of sleet driven by the north wind, and the retreating army had to put up with frozen bread and other terrible hardships. Not to have gained a decisive victory is for the Germans in the North to sustain a check. While General Manteuffel has been drawn away to the north-east, a large force has left Cherbourg for field operations, and probably to assist in some combined movement with the Army of the Loire.

That army—the largest body of French troops in the field—has effected a skilful retreat upon Le Mans, where it is being reorganised under General Chanzy, and is receiving reinforcements from the West. The story of the campaign South of Orleans, from the retreat of the Army of the Loire out of that city to its arrival at Le Mans, is one of the most terrible in modern military history. Some eight engagements were fought in the bitterly cold weather, and though the French carried off their guns, their wounded were to a great extent left behind unaided. It is estimated that in a fortnight they lost 50,000 men in all, and that the German casualties were also very severe. The present pause in Central France is but a temporary truce. The German Landwehr reserves—the married veterans—to the number of 50,000 men, are already far on towards Paris, and as many recruits are said to be hastening towards Lyons and Dijon, to fill up the exhausted ranks of the invaders. They will all be needed. With one portion of the Army of the Loire, as yet unmolested, General Bourbaki is leaving Bourges and marching east against General Werder, who has lately fought a very severe battle at Nuits, near Dijon.

Apparently General Trochu has not yet given up hope of relief from without, by means of the huge armies which M. Gambetta is still organising and arming with American rifles. As a military engineer the Governor of Paris promises to rank with Todleben himself. Of the vast entrenched camp he has constructed around Fort Valerien we have spoken below. While the Germans have been in front of Paris he has created Fort Avron, on an eminence lying directly in front of Fort Rosny, looking towards the Saxon position at Chelles, and commanding the gap which is open to Lagny, the great Prussian depot, and beyond it. This position, so dangerous to the besiegers, Count Moltke has now decided to take. Yesterday, for the first time during the three months' investment of Paris, the German artillery opened fire, but it is doubtful whether their batteries will carry as far as the ship guns which are planted on the forts of the capital. Whether other forts will be bombarded remains to be seen. The Parisians are apparently in good heart, notwithstanding discouraging news, severe weather, the terrible mortality that has set in, and growing scarcity. It may not be long before General Trochu leaves them to make terms, and shuts himself up in his entrenched camp in the western side of Paris.

The other news of the week does not call for much remark. We have to deplore another disastrous railway accident at Hatfield, owing to the sudden breaking in the frost of the tire of an engine wheel, by which eight persons were killed; and the untimely death of the eldest son of Mr. John Walter, in his heroic efforts to rescue brothers and relatives from the broken ice, at his father's seat.—The foreign diplomatic questions are in fair train for settlement. The Conference on the Treaty of 1856 is to meet in London on the 3rd January, and the French Government consent to be represented. The Government of Luxembourg have put forth a telling reply to Count Bismark's charges, and that statesman is ready to accept the arbitration of the United States. The Roumanians, instigated perhaps by Russia, have put forward a claim to be absolutely independent of the Porte, and now seem rather frightened at having made the demand.—We sincerely hope it is true that Earl Granville has appointed a special envoy to proceed to Washington, and make substantial concessions to the United States on the fisheries dispute.

CONTINUANCE OF THE WAR.

NOT many weeks ago we indulged a rather confident hope that the Franco-German war would have come to an end before the close of the present year. No such prospect now gladdens our heart. Indeed, the termination of the desperate struggle between the two leading Powers of Continental Europe, threatens to be protracted far into the spring. Paris, no doubt, must capitulate within the next three months; but it is not at all certain that the Army of Paris will capitulate with its inhabitants. General Trochu appears to be taking effective means for placing the troops under his command in a position of inexpugnable strength outside Paris, before the gates of the capital are thrown open to the conquering Germans. He is constructing an entrenched camp under the guns of Fort Valérien, strong enough to bid defiance to the most strenuous efforts of the besiegers. In it, it is conjectured, he is gradually accumulating food and munitions enough for his army for some months to come, and when at length famine shall have compelled the population of Paris to surrender to the foe, he will march out into the stronghold and permit the beleaguered city to come to terms. Should this be his plan, it will probably upset the best calculations of Count Moltke. Whether it would be safe under such conditions for the German army, or any portion of it, to enter Paris, is a question which we civilians are probably incompetent to solve. By whom the place is to be revictualled, so as to save the lives of at least a million and a half non-combatant men, women, and children, or what great political or military ends will be gained by taking Paris without its army, we are unable even to conceive. Thus much, however, is tolerably plain. The Germans have undertaken a work which even for their military strength and capacity far exceeds any expectations they had formed of it, and may possibly exceed the vast resources which they have within reach. Unhappily for them, the sentiment of Europe has been so greatly reversed since the victory at Sedan, that it has become doubtful whether, if they should fail, greater joy or regret would be felt by the surrounding peoples.

This is no longer a contest between Power and Power—it is a death-struggle between nation and nation. It has no other object now than the utter prostration of one or other of the two great families of mankind. The war is, indeed, nominally localised, but the baneful effects of the war are rapidly overflowing its proper area and inflicting terrible loss upon all the countries of Europe. Over and above the material damage they are fated to sustain in consequence of the prolongation of this desperate encounter, it becomes impossible to shut our eyes to the fact of its demoralising tendency among neutral populations. Everything is now looked at through the medium of war. As it is said of men entering into a murderous conflict, that they see all things tinged with a blood-red hue, so the minds of men watching this savage trial of strength between the Germans and the French, become more and more deeply agitated by the fiercer passions of our common nature, and look upon national duties, rights, and necessities, in a light which destroys all the more delicate distinctions between right and wrong. The civilisation of Europe has already been put back well-nigh half-a-century; and it will be matter for surprise and thankfulness if before the combatants have withdrawn exhausted from the ring, a general *mêlée* does not arise among the excited spectators of the fight.

Possibly, if the King of Prussia could have foreseen all that has occurred since the Emperor Napoleon became a captive in his hands, he would have listened to more moderate counsels. He had then achieved the avowed object of the war. He might then have prescribed terms of peace stringent enough to have secured the safety of Germany for a generation to come, and yet magnanimous enough to have made the best moral impression upon France and Europe. He has had his promenade to Paris. He has looked upon the fair city in which it was his ambitious dream to dictate peace. He has received the style of Emperor. A policy of "blood and iron," suggested by Count Bismark, has welded North and South Germany into a united Empire. But at what inconceivable cost has the flattering dream been realised. Nay, not altogether realised even yet. The tide of conquest appears to have reached its height, but the subjugation of the French people seems further off than before. The Armies of the Loire, of the North, and of the West, spring up in increased numbers in spite of reiterated defeats. The immense sacrifices of men which France has sustained, do not seem to have told in the least upon her resolution. Paris, once the frivolous, has become a grave and determined city. Germany, once so sober, is maddened by the intoxicating draught of military success. Possibly, the King of Prussia could not put bounds to the present war, even if he would. He and his people alike have gone too far for any retreat that may be characterised as voluntary. Whether they gain or lose their object, they must pay for it a price in blood and treasure infinitely beyond its worth. They have eaten the ashes of the apples of Sodom, and their mouths are filled with ashes.

We know not how far this awful spectacle will ultimately impress upon European nations its obvious moral. For the present, at least (and, probably, for some time after the war has been brought to a close) its effect, as we have said, has been simply deplorable. But the passions which have been roused will, after a while, cool down, and reflection will follow. What then will be the judgment passed upon this chapter of history by that immense majority of men who have to bear the evils of war, but who receive none of its rewards. Surely they will find out some remedy for this strange propensity of their rulers to seek glory in the battle-field. Whether by mutual disarmament, or whether by the deposition of dynasties, or whether by the growth of public sentiment unfavourable to military enterprise, or otherwise, the time is surely coming—or we should despair of the race—when people will impose upon their rulers conditions which will tie their hands, and prevent them from wasting all the beneficial products of peace, and from deluging with human blood the countries over which they bear sway. Meanwhile, our obvious duty is, each in his own sphere, to discourage

all the active causes of war. Great armies are the bane of Europe. Let us see to it that our own country be not turned into a camp of martial instruction; that we bear ourselves justly towards all other nations; that we exercise our powerful influence in good offices only; that we organise ourselves more efficiently for combating ignorance, vice, and crime; and that, "doing the works of God," we may learn to trust God with our future destinies. This is fanaticism now—it will be wisdom by-and-by.

MR. RICHARD, M.P, AT MERTHYR.

IT is a very pleasant task to us to turn from the scenes of carnage and blood upon which we have commented above, to the enthusiastic meetings between the hon. member for Merthyr-Tydvil and his constituents, and to the speeches in which that eminent representative of Welsh Nonconformists, gave an account of his stewardship during the last session, and anticipated the complexion of Parliamentary proceedings for the session soon about to commence. Unfortunately, during the continuance of the war, the metropolitan daily papers have deemed it conducive to their interests to give but an extremely meagre report of the speeches delivered during the recess by members of Parliament in their respective boroughs. And those of Nonconformist members have especially been cast into the shade. Indeed, our home affairs, with one or two exceptions, have been almost entirely withdrawn from public view, in order to give place to interminable and gossipy correspondence respecting the details of the conflict between Germany and France. We are happy to observe that the provincial papers have not altogether followed this questionable example. The *Merthyr Express* of Saturday last contains an able and full report of the address delivered by Mr. Richard on the foregoing Tuesday. We have made such extracts from it as our space will admit of; and we are sure that our readers will peruse them with an interest not less lively than we have done ourselves.

The sketch which our hon. friend gave to his audience of the proceedings of the House of Commons last session, and of the part he took, although necessarily confined to the most prominent features, was exceedingly lucid, frank, and instructive; exhibiting that unity which is only given to a variety of topics by the broad principle of political justice which underlies them all. We congratulate Mr. Richard's constituency upon having a member whom they can so thoroughly trust, and who is so worthy of being trusted. None of them could have listened to his eloquent utterances at the meeting of Tuesday se'nnight, without being made conscious of the sincerity, the courage, the ability, the indefatigable industry, and the success with which their representative has discharged the responsibility committed to him in the Commons House of Parliament. Mr. Richard has no reserves, so far as they are concerned who placed him in the position which he so honourably occupies. He has no other objects than such as he professed when he stood before them as a candidate for their votes. Between them and himself the fullest sympathy appears to exist, and what he says to them he is able and willing, as opportunity serves, to say with even more power from his place in the House. Nor let it be supposed that he speaks to "the most critical assembly in the world" without effect. His words usually carry with them all the weight which can be given to them by an intellectual power that can stand comparison with some of its most striking examples, and by a character above reproach.

The Education Act of last session constituted, as was natural, one of the most prominent topics of the hon. member's expository harangue. We commend his remarks to the quiet and thoughtful study of some of our friends. They will at least show how, in his judgment, the most vital principle of British Nonconformity has been set aside by the provisions of that Act. We look back with great satisfaction upon the course which, in concert with a small minority, he had sufficient boldness to pursue. Our principles, as he justly remarked, are our weapons; and, happily, under his guidance, our weapons have been saved to us for future conflicts with ecclesiastical exclusiveness. Dissenters owe to him a tribute of gratitude which they cannot at present fully recognise, but which they will be able to appreciate when they come to do battle in earnest for their rights.

It was, however, in anticipation of the coming session, that Mr. Richard's speech to his constituents evinced most conspicuously the fervour and the power of his oratory. He foresees, as we also foresee, an irruption of militarism into the debates of next session, which will probably set aside many, if not most, of our projected domestic reforms. We trust he will lead a goodly band of members to strive with all their might against the passing madness of the day. We believe that he will have a much larger outdoor support at his back in doing so, than the military and naval members of the House have any conception of. At any rate, we are confident he will clear his own conscience from all tame acquiescence in the war views which find their home in our political clubs, and we indulge the sanguine hope that he will not be left without hearty assistance from many members of the House representing popular constituencies.

THE OPUIM TRAFFIC IN CHINA.

IN our present number we publish the last of the series of masterly papers, in which the Rev. Griffith John, of Hankow, has stated with great force, simplicity, and fulness of knowledge, the terrible evils of the opium traffic and smoking in China. Though it is an old and trite story, our esteemed correspondent has given to it new point and interest. It is quite easy to understand that faithful missionaries like himself—and it is to missionaries mainly that the exposure of such iniquities is due—should not be popular amongst the large number of Europeans who make a pecuniary gain by the demoralisation of the Chinese people. It is also too easy to discover in these letters that the opium traffic is the foremost reason why the zealous efforts of the missionaries of the Cross to evangelise the teeming population of the Celestial Empire have met with so limited acceptance.

The history of the successful attempts to force this pernicious drug upon the Chinese—of the wars which it has engendered, the outrages it has occasioned, and the demoralisation it has caused—is the darkest of the many dark stains upon our colonial history. In this dreary record of force and fraud, of naked selfishness and fatuous policy, there is not one redeeming feature. It is the story of a professedly Christian nation insisting upon the continuance and extension of a trade injurious alike to body and soul amongst a population, the heathen rulers of which have done their utmost to restrain it. Englishmen may blush with humiliating shame as they read the noble sentiments of Chinese statesmen in reference to this pernicious traffic, and perceive how futile have been all their efforts to prevent the poisonous flood from overspreading their land, owing to the malignant resolution and insatiable greed of British officials, merchants, and the Imperial Government itself, whom no considerations of Christian equity, international right, and moral justice have, in this instance, been able to influence.

The deadly wrong we have done to the Chinese people is, alas! irreparable. Our success in fostering the vice of opium smoking has been complete. It is now a confirmed national habit—a habit that is sapping the vitality of a pacific and industrious people. There are, Mr. John tells us, at least *five millions* of the Chinese who are enslaved by a deadly custom, which "exhausts the animal spirits, impedes the regular performance of business, wastes the flesh and blood, dissipates every kind of property, renders the person ill-favoured, promotes obscenity, violates the laws, attacks the vitals, and destroys life." "Opium," says our correspondent, "is getting to be used generally by all classes, and the bulk of the population is falling rapidly under its fatal spell. Unless something interposes in behalf of the Chinese, they must as a people sink rapidly; for the poison is destroying the very vitals of the nation." Throughout the Empire, the Government and their officials, after strenuously opposing the extension of the habit, have abandoned the task in despair. No sanguinary edicts can arrest its progress. The authorities are utterly beaten by the irresistible custom. Not only have they been obliged to connive at it, but themselves to a considerable extent have yielded to the terrible fascination. European missionaries, who are but few and far between among the population of this vast empire, are equally impotent. Such is the moral insensibility and bluntness induced by the habit of opium smoking that no appeal seems to touch the hearts of those who are addicted to it, and even "professions of faith and repentance are generally simulated with the view of obtaining assistance in procuring the drug." The opium trade has moreover created a strong prejudice against the missionary and the Gospel. "The Chinese," says Mr. John, "cannot see how the same people can dispense to them a destructive poison with the one hand, and a saving religion with the other. They know, too, the history of the trade; and they have their doubts as to whether a people who would carry on such a nefarious traffic have a right to talk about religion, and to exhort them to become virtuous. The missionary is often interrupted with questions such as these: Does not the opium come from your country? Why do you bring opium into China? How can you exhort people to be good whilst you injure and destroy us with this poison? &c. This horrible trade has done more than anything else to render the heart of the nation callous to our message. And yet we are often asked by the opium merchants how it is that the Gospel is not making greater progress in China."

If England cannot recall the deadly evil she has been the means of inflicting upon these hapless Chinese, is now quite powerless to stop the use of the accursed drug among the people upon whom she has forced it, and has no means of preventing its growth as a native product, she can at least, even at the eleventh hour, wash her hands of this great iniquity. We trust the experienced counsels of Mr. John on the subject will not pass unheeded. "Let the people of England," he urges "demand that, at least, the Government should cease to have a share in the planting and cultivation of the poppy, that it should no longer make advances to the cultivators, that it should break up its opium warehouses, and that its monopoly of and traffic in opium should come to a speedy and perpetual end. Let them demand, too, that the Government, instead of trading in the drug, should make it bear a heavy export duty on its way through Calcutta, with the view of discouraging its cultivation in Bengal; and that every encouragement and facility should be given to those who might be disposed to exchange for the cultivation of opium the cultivation of the more generous fruits of the earth. There can be no difficulty in requesting the Government to do this much, whatever views may be held as to its power arbitrarily to forbid the cultivation of the poppy in any part of Her Majesty's dominions. But what is wanted is *absolute* prohibition. England should not allow this poisonous plant to be grown in, or pass through, any part of her territories, save for medicinal purposes. Whether this can be done consistently with our constitutional laws, I must leave others to discuss. I only maintain that the laws of justice, honour, and fairness, demand that England should wash her hands clean of this foul trade as soon as possible. She owes this to herself; and she owes this to China. The relation between the two countries can never be what it ought to be whilst this traffic lasts. It were, indeed, a sad thing for the Chinese, if they could contemplate intercourse with us complacently and cherish us lovingly, whilst we are destroying them as individuals, as families, and as a nation, with a deadly poison." We trust this forcible appeal will meet with a zealous response, and be followed by prompt and energetic action.

CHILDREN'S DINNERS.

OF all the many and varied forms of practical charity, those which really do good, and which do not tend to foster the pauper spirit, none are more pleasant, both to the giver and the recipient, than the substantial hot dinners occasionally provided during the winter season for poor destitute children. Such a mode of relief is peculiarly appropriate to the present festive season. At Christmas time there are few places in this country in which some attempt is not made to provide a cheery tempting meal for the otherwise foodless little ones. But Christmas comes only once a year, and children's bellies must be filled a little oftener than that. Feeding the hungry was a work in which the Man of Sorrows delighted. The practical Christian has other labours besides that of preaching. He must assist in attending, so far as he can, to the physical as well as the spiritual wants of the suffering multitudes around him. Those who hold a contrary doctrine would do well to personally attempt the experiment of evangelising the poor of our great cities. They would soon learn the nature of the great physical difficulties which really impede the progress of the Gospel among the people. We do not say that the religious world should take upon itself the relief of the destitute poor, but there is a wise charity which helpeth and harmeth not. The condition of our street children constitutes one of the gravest problems of the age. What can we do with them? They are ragged: we clothe them, but the clothing soon finds its way to the pawn shop, to procure the means of drink for the parents. They are ignorant: we send them to school, but they are taken away to assist in repairing the ravages which the public-house has occasioned in the family income. So it is to the bitter end. But we can at least feed the children. Here the greed and selfishness of parents cannot interfere. We give strength, warmth, and health to the youngsters. This is something, at any rate,

And so the children's dinner movement promises to become an useful institution, so long as it is properly managed; an institution in which all who have little ones dear to them, children who have never experienced the cruel pangs of cold and hunger, will ever feel a strong and abiding interest.

Among the dinners given during the last few days to the children of the London poor, there were two that merit a few words of special mention, as illustrating the manner in which a very large amount of practical good is being continually effected, in a quiet and unostentatious manner, by the members of Christian churches. The first was given on Boxing Day at the Costermongers' Mission in Golden-lane. We have on more than one occasion spoken of the interesting and successful character of Mr. Orsman's labours among the street traders of the city, and we are glad to find that they are still being prosecuted with energy and zeal. The children's dinners proper take place every Wednesday, but on this occasion the meal assumed something of the character of a family reunion; both parents and children being specially invited. The adults were each required to bring a knife, fork, and two plates; the children each bringing a basin and spoon. These utensils did not always furnish a true criterion of the contents of the possessor's cupboard, for a great many were borrowed from more fortunate neighbours, and it was curious to note the almost jealous care taken of these. The plates were of all shapes and sizes, the largest preponderating, from the humble willow pattern to the aristocratic white affair, with its border of dainty blue or mauve, picked up cheap at an auction sale. The knives and forks were equally diversified. Here was a rude iron blade with a make-shift handle; there was an ivory-mounted article in the last stage of dilapidation, yet preserving a kind of aristocratic air to the last. When dinner was served, all distinctions of knife and plate were merged in the one absorbing desire to obtain a goodly share of the tempting meal. The children seemed most eager, but, although the parents could hardly have been less anxious, they seemed to be more concerned about their little ones than themselves. The children were of the very poorest class, the class which is found, dirty and ragged, playing in the gutter, or whooping, yelling, or fighting in the courts and lanes, yet clean and "titivated up," they scarcely seemed the same children. Some of the faces were very intelligent, a few were really pretty. Soap and water had brought out the hidden lights and beauties, even as the art of the picture cleaner, by removing the layers of dust and dirt, can reveal the long-concealed charms of an ancient painting. No wonder that when Mr. Orsman announces a penny exhibition of dissolving views, he states that clean children will be admitted at half-price.

But to see the children properly, we should go to Golden-lane on a Wednesday afternoon. On such occasions, we find about 300 children, from three to twelve years of age, busily engaged in the enjoyment of a good substantial hot meal. How these dinners are appreciated by the little ones may be inferred from the fact that a lump of dry coarse bread and a small piece of red-herring, or a half-pennyworth of fried fish, washed down by a drop of cold water, forms the daily fare of a large number of the children. Some do not get more than a dry crust. Considering the insufficient nature of their food, it seems strange that many of the little ones should have a fat and well-fed appearance. A stranger, who found himself in the midst of the juvenile company, would find it difficult to believe in the stories related of the terrible privations endured by these poor little ones; but in after life the effects of want of proper nourishment are more fully seen. The boys and girls grow up into emaciated men and women, perpetually ailing and liable to be brought down by the least attack of sickness. They have no real stamina. When we learn that during the last three years Mr. Orsman has given nearly 24,000 dinners to the children of his district, who can estimate the real amount of physical good thus effected by him? To assist in preserving unimpaired the health of the little ones, is to give them fresh strength to fight the battle of life. Health is often the labourer's chief capital; without it he becomes a pauper, an incumbrance to his fellow men, who are burdened with his support. It is very touching to note the eager glances of the children while awaiting their meal, and the thrilling earnestness with which they sing, "We thank Thee, Lord, for this our food." They have faith, and believe that to God, as well as to man, are they indebted for the blessings of a good meal. Would that some of their elders could feel as trustful. There is something in the simple faith of these poor waifs and strays of the great metropolis, which sometimes shames that entertained by ourselves. Even from children we can learn a lesson.

Another seasonable dinner was that given yesterday to a number of poor children residing in the squalid neighbourhood of Drury Lane. These dinners are usually given once in each week, at the Mission House in Endell Street, Long Acre, but on this particular occasion, it was given in the schoolroom under the Presbyterian Church in Wilson-street, Drury-lane. There were about two hundred little ones, and it was astonishing what appetites they had. The smoking roast beef and savoury baked potatoes disappeared with marvellous rapidity, as did the plenteous stock of plum pudding. There were not a few children, of from seven to nine years old, who scarcely seemed to understand the use of the knife and fork. Others appeared more versed than their years would apparently warrant in the routine duties of the table. These were the child-mothers, the girls who nursed the baby "while mother was away." They attended with a quaint, business-like demeanour, on their younger sisters or brothers, and it is very touching to note the tenderness of disposition continually springing up under these and other most uncongenial conditions, among the children of the poor. It shows how ripe is the soil for the reception of the seed. Such ground, properly cultivated, ought to yield an abundant harvest. Here and there a youngster might be detected slipping a piece of his pudding into his pocket. This arose not from any selfish feeling, quite the reverse. Many children like to take home some of the "nice dinner" to "mother" or "baby." So with the oranges and nuts which were afterwards distributed. A goodly portion of these found their way to the children's homes. There was no attempt at lecturing; a grace sung before and after the meal was all that was attempted in this direction. Then the children were allowed to leave, which they did in good order. Scarcely, however, had the schoolroom become emptied of its little visitors, than two poor children, who had been unavoidaby detained at the hospital, made their appearance. Unluckily for them, the eatables had all been consumed, and the poor things were compelled to return cold and dinnerless; but next week, let us hope, they will occupy the post of honour at the dinner. One feature of these children's meals is their comparative cheapness. The total cost of the Wilson-street Christmas Dinner was only £4 2s. 6d., of which £2 12s. 6d. went for meat alone. With this no less than 203 children were well-fed. But it must be remembered that the labour of making the puddings, paring the potatoes, &c., was gratuitous. Would that all other benevolent efforts were as zealously and wisely exerted! In Golden-lane and Drury-lane the workers evidently understand their duties; hence their success and the ever-widening character of their praiseworthy operations. We commend their example to the emulation of others.

FATHER HYACINTHE'S LECTURE.—Father Hyacinthe's lecture on the war on Tuesday, December 20, was listened to by an overflowing audience. The speaker (who appeared in the ordinary morning dress of a layman) occupied about an hour and a quarter, and was heard throughout with unbroken interest. He denied that the present war can be considered in any true sense a war of races. As a matter of ethnological science (which he neither despised nor feared) it might be true that the human race had had several fathers, but at any rate "we have the same God and Father Almighty, who has made in His own image all the peoples of the world." It was absurd to suppose that German unity was a menace to France, and the speaker recalled the fact that as a preacher he had insisted upon the sin of envy between nations. France did not need the Rhine boundary, and Germany did not need Alsace and Lorraine. He was profoundly opposed to the annexation of those two provinces, but he denied altogether that the annexation would reduce France to the rank of a second-rate Power. Then, again, it was not true to call this a war of religion. The era of religious wars is over. In conclusion, Father Hyacinthe expressed his conviction that France would rise from her present humiliation not only politically strong, but morally regenerated. Morally and socially it must be admitted that she had been a bad example among the nations. "I say," the speaker continued, "that for her own sake and that of the world it was necessary she should be saved from the abyss to which she was approaching. In 1867—from the pulpit of Notre Dame—I warned my hearers of the luxury and vice which carried in their bosom the seeds of social and of national dissolution. It is something already to see the freedom of Italy accomplished through this war—of Italy, so long kept down by the ill-directed force of France. It is something to see, along with the deliverance of Italy, the commencement of the regeneration of my great Church, the Church of Rome. If this war send us also deliverance from the crying evils I have mentioned at home, then, since there was indeed no other remedy, thank God for a war which restores to us our ancient manners and our ancient purity—a war which gives us once again a race of chaste women and of brave men." The address was in French.

Foreign and Colonial.

THE LUXEMBOURG QUESTION.

Count Bismark's note of the 3rd on the Luxembourg treaty has been published. The note points out that Prussia, at the outbreak of the war, had declared her intention to respect the neutrality of Luxembourg—supposing that France did the same, and that Luxembourg herself sincerely endeavoured to remain neutral. The Government of Prussia has scrupulously observed a strict neutrality; but neither France nor Luxembourg has done so. The hostile sentiments of the population have manifested themselves in the maltreatment of German officials in the Duchy; but Prussia does not hold the Government of Luxembourg responsible for the bad conduct of individuals, although more might have been done to repress it. The provisioning of Thionville, however, by trains run from Luxembourg, was a flagrant breach of the laws of neutrality, which could not have taken place without the connivance of the officials. The Prussian Government at the time lodged a complaint with the Government of the Grand Duchy, and pointed out the consequences to which proceedings of the kind must inevitably lead. The warning was disregarded. After the fall of Metz numbers of French officers and soldiers, escaping from the captured fortress, passed through the territory of Luxembourg to evade the German troops, and to rejoin the French Army of the North. In the city of Luxembourg itself the resident French Vice-Consul had an office at the railway station designed to assist the French fugitives in reaching their own country; and at least 2,000 soldiers had in this manner reinforced the French army. The Government of Luxembourg did nothing to prevent these acts, and the fact undoubtedly constitutes a gross violation of neutrality. The conditions upon which Prussia had based her neutrality have therefore ceased to exist; and, consequently, Prussia declares that on her part she no longer considers herself, in the conduct of her military operations, bound by any regard for the neutrality of Luxembourg, and she reserves to herself the right of claiming compensation from the Grand Ducal Government for the German losses arising through the non-observance of neutrality, and of taking the necessary steps to secure herself against the repetition of similar proceedings.

The Luxembourg Chamber met again on Wednesday, and voted the following order of the day:—"The declaration of Germany that the Federal Government no longer holds itself bound to respect the neutrality of the Grand Duchy in the execution of military operations, has produced a deep and painful impression in the country. The Chamber again proclaims the devoted attachment of the inhabitants of Luxembourg to the dynasty and to the institutions of the country, and its members entertain feelings of the deepest gratitude for the devotion which the Grand Duke and Prince Henry have displayed in defending the rights and interests of the Grand Duchy."

The reply of the Luxembourg Government to the note of Count Bismark of the 3rd is dated the 14th inst. It complains of exaggerations on the part of the German Government, and asserts that Prussia had repeatedly recognised the scrupulous conduct of Luxembourg in maintaining its neutrality. The reply acknowledges that only one provision train freighted for another country was arrested by the Prussian military at the frontier; while thousands of trains loaded with provisions for the German armies, which had been purchased in Luxembourg, had been forwarded by the Luxembourg Railway, and the carriages had not been returned, but used for the transport of German troops and material of war. The territory of the Grand Duchy, it is further averred, had been frequently invaded by German troops in arms; while the French Consul had merely facilitated the journey of necessitous Frenchmen to the neutral territory of Belgium. The Luxembourg despatch adds, that the guarantee of neutrality becomes simply worthless if repudiated by a single Power.

It is stated that the popular address to the Grand Duke, which has been got up in consequence of Count Bismark's despatch, has in a few days obtained 43,773 signatures; all those who have signed it being natives of Luxembourg, over twenty-one years of age, and in the enjoyment of civil rights. The address implores the King to save the country, and never to permit its destinies to be disposed of without a free vote of the population.

The *Daily News* correspondent at Luxembourg says that the grievances of Prussia against the Grand Duchy are of very small proportions, and vanish altogether on close inspection. Those grievances are said to have been drawn up from the reports of amateur diplomatists, actuated by personal rather than by patriotic motives. The Luxembourg Government denies that any attempt was ever made by the French Consul to keep open a sort of recruiting office on the Grand ducal territory. Had he done so, his exequatur would have been immediately withdrawn. With regard to the inhabitants of Luxembourg, though they speak in ordinary conversation a Teutonic dialect, it has no more affinity with pure high German than with Flemish or Dutch. Politically they are neither German nor French. The recollection of their connection with Belgium is still cherished, and, if their present position had to be disturbed, the correspondent says, they would be unanimous in asking for annexation to that country.

It is confidently stated that Prussia has consented to submit its grievances against Luxembourg to the arbitration of the United States.

THE BLACK SEA QUESTION.

The first meeting of the Conference on the Neutralisation of the Black Sea, under the Treaty of Paris of 1856, is fixed for Tuesday, January 3, 1871. The Provisional Government of France have agreed to send a representative to the Conference on the Treaty of 1856, and the Plenipotentiary is to be M. Favre. M. Gambetta had previously agreed that France should take part in the negotiations, provided that the Paris branch of the Provisional Government should give its consent. General Trochu, M. Jules Favre, and their colleagues, sanction the arrangement; so the preparations for the Conference may now be deemed complete.

The *Echo du Parlement*, a Brussels paper, learns that Jules Favre intends to represent France at the London Conference, and to provoke a debate upon the war. Should the German representative protest against the discussion of a question foreign to the purpose of the Conference, M. Jules Favre will cite the precedent of Count Cavour, who at the Paris Congress stated the grievances of Italy against Austria.

The statement published by Vienna newspapers, that Turkey would act independently of the other Powers in the Eastern question, is contradicted. The Ottoman Government will on all points act in unison with the other signataries of the Treaty of Paris.

A letter from Constantinople to the *Presse* says that Russia offers Turkey as compensation for Article 14 of the treaty, to obtain, with the help of Prussia, substantial modification of the Capitulation Treatier, and to help Turkey to regain her sovereignty over the Bey of Tunis, which was lost through French intrigues.

The Vienna *New Free Press* publishes a despatch from Constantinople asserting that England will propose to the Conference the suppression of the neutralisation of the Black Sea and the passage of the Dardanelles, and in return for this proposition will ask authority for the construction of two naval stations at Sinope and Trebizonde. The Porte regards this proposition with favour, while General Ignatieff strongly opposes it, and, to defeat the plan of England, will offer to the Porte a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, with a guarantee for the integrity of the Ottoman territory.

La Liberté publishes a despatch from Vienna asserting that all the official and private despatches received from Constantinople concur in the apprehension of a change of Ministry in favour of Russia. Aali Pasha is likely shortly to be superseded by one of the friends of General Ignatieff, Mehemet Kibrisly Pasha, or Mehemet Ruchdi Pasha. All the members of the former "Young Turkey" party, the head of which is Prince Mustapha Fazyl, are in favour of the Porte coming to a direct understanding with the Emperor Alexander.

The Vienna *Presse* states that the Ottoman Ambassador has received instructions to request a modification of the stipulations affecting the Straits.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

Prince Charles of Roumania has had presented in Vienna, London, Bordeaux, and Florence an *exposé*, in which he represents the position of Roumania, as fixed by the Treaty of Paris, to be untenable, and calls the attention of the Powers to that circumstance. The communication is not addressed officially to the Governments, but is in the form of a memorial to the Sovereigns.

The Porte considers Prince Charles's conduct disrespectful and illegal. It will resist discussion on the Principalities at the Conference.

GERMANY.

The answer of the King of Prussia to the deputation of the Diet which presented the Address at Versailles on Saturday week is published in the *Staats-Anzeiger*, and runs as follows:—

Gentlemen,—In receiving you here on foreign territory, far from the German frontier, the irresistible prompting of my feelings is to express my gratitude to Providence, whose wonderful dispensation has brought us together in this old French Royal residence. God has given us victory in a measure for which I had hardly dared to hope and to ask when in the summer of the year I first claimed your support for this great war. This support has been given to the fullest extent; and I thank you in my own name, and in that of the army, and in that of the country. The victorious German armies, among which you have sought me, have found in the self-sacrificing spirit of the country, in the loyal sympathy and ministering care of the people at home, and in its unanimity with the army, that encouragement which has supported them in the midst of battles and privations. The grant of the means for the continuation of the war which the Governments of the North German Confederation have asked for in the session of the Diet that is just concluded, has given me a new proof that the nation is determined to exert all its energies to secure that the great and painful sacrifices, which touch my heart as they do yours, shall not have been made in vain, and not to lay aside its arms until German frontier shall have been secured against future attacks. The North German Diet, whose greetings and congratulations you bring me, has been called upon before its close to co-operate by its decision in the work of the unification of Germany. I feel grateful to it for the readiness with which it has almost unanimously pronounced its assent to the treaties which will give an organic expression to the unity of the nation. The Diet, like the allied Governments, has assented to these treaties in the conviction that the common political life of the Germans will develope itself with the more beneficial results, inasmuch as the basis which has been obtained for it has been measured and offered by our South German allies of their own free choice, and in agreement with their own estimate of the national requirements. I hope that the representative assemblies of those States before which the treaties have still to be laid will follow the Governments in the same path. The summons addressed to me by His Majesty the King of Bavaria for re-establishing the Imperial dignity of the ancient German Empire has moved me deeply. You, gentlemen, request me, in the name of the North German Diet, not to shrink from responding to this summons. I am glad to gather from your words the expression of the confidence and the wishes of the North German Diet; but you are aware that in this question, touching such high interests and grand recollections of the German nation, it is not my own feelings, not even my own judgment, which can determine the decision. It is only in the unanimous voice of the German princes and free cities, and the corresponding wish of the German nation and its representatives, that I can recognise that call of Providence which I can obey, and trust in God's blessing. It will be a source of satisfaction to you, as well as to myself, to know that I have received intelligence from His Majesty the King of Bavaria that the assent of all the German princes and free cities is secured, and that the official ratification may be shortly expected.

The chances that the Bavarian Parliament will reject the treaty providing entry into the Confederation is considered great. The Prussian journals say that Bismark will impose harsher terms next time the treaty is considered.

It is stated that Count Bismark has sent a very courteous note to Vienna, announcing the imminent reunion of Germany, and hoping that the new Commonwealth and Austria will always entertain friendly relations. From Berlin we are told that the note was promptly acknowledged, and that the reply was of the most friendly character.

Mr. Odo Russell has officially congratulated the King of Prussia on the impending assumption of the German Imperial title. Minister Delbruck has left for Versailles to concert arrangements for the proclamation of German Imperial dignity.

ITALY.

The transfer of the capital to Rome was voted by a very large majority—239 to 20—and is to be carried into effect on the 1st of July. The Chamber also approved the motion which was brought forward by 200 members, expressing the gratitude of Florence for the patriotic conduct of the Romans during the siege. The Chamber then adjourned until the 16th of January.

In reply to the Bishop of Posen, who recently visited Versailles, King William said he would do what he could for the Pope. No definite promise was, however, given by the King.

AMERICA.

It is announced that General Schenck has accepted the nomination of the President as United States Minister to England, and it is expected that he will sail in January. The *Times'* correspondent telegraphs that he will be instructed to propose a re-opening of the Alabama negotiations, and to complain respecting the fishery troubles. He also states that Congress has taken no action on either of these questions. The Senate has confirmed the appointment.

The Senate, by thirty-one votes against nine, has passed a resolution authorising the President to appoint three commissioners to proceed on a visit to San Domingo, in order to investigate into its political condition, and report the terms on which its annexation to the United States is desired. Congress has adjourned till the 4th of January.

A Montreal telegram mentions a report that Sir John Rose is soon expected in Canada, and that he will afterwards proceed to Washington on a mission of conciliation, with a view to compromising the fishery difficulties.

The American correspondent of the *Daily News* pronounces rather against Canada on the question of the fisheries. There appears, he says, to be no doubt that the Canadians are exercising those rights which are undoubtedly theirs, such as the right to prevent fishing by foreigners within three miles of their shores, and others which are not undoubtedly theirs, such as drawing the three-mile line across the mouth of great bays, in a very stringent way. But the Canadians would gain more by good neighbourship, and by abating some of their strict rights, than by maintaining them. A little concession must do good, and could do no harm. So, too, with the navigation of the St. Lawrence. The Canadians have made all the canals, and without these the river is useless to the Western States as a means of communication with the sea. But why not, asks the writer, adopt the principle of free trade in the matter? But why do not the Americans themselves adopt it? They have withdrawn the Reciprocity Treaty, and yet they expect generosity from the Canadians, at the very time they were acting ungenerously themselves.

INDIA.

The Government financial scheme will be published shortly. It gives to the local Government full control over education, gaols, civil buildings, roads, police, and other matters, and assigns permanently for the purpose from Imperial revenue a total sum of 4,688,711*l.*, or 340,801*l.* less than the actual aggregate assignments this year on which these permanent grants are based. These sums local Governments will use on their responsibility, as they also will their power to impose rates for local purposes, but the Viceroy recommends that the power shall not be used too rapidly. He also states that Government, apart from unforeseen emergencies, can reduce the income-tax without adding any new burdens. There is a prospect of a good surplus. The financial change is expected to do away with much irritating correspondence between Provincial and the Supreme Governments, and to secure local knowledge in local taxation while retaining unity of Imperial revenue.

AUSTRALIA.

We have news by telegraph from Melbourne and Adelaide to the 6th, and from Sydney to the 3rd inst. From New South Wales it is stated that the measurement duties proposed by the Ministry had been rejected by the Legislative Assembly; the Stamp Act had also been defeated. These defeats had caused a Ministerial crisis, and the resignation of the whole Cabinet was imminent. The Victoria Parliament was in session, and had passed the estimates for the first six months of next year. The income was estimated at 3,500,000*l.*, and the expenditure at the same amount. The position of the Ministry was regarded as firm. Business was very dull. In South Australia the Free Selection Land Bill had passed. The estimates for the financial year showed a deficit of 200,000*l.*, which it was proposed to cover by an issue of bonds bearing 5 per cent. interest. From New Zealand the news is that the Parliament had been opened, telegraphs were being extended, and affairs generally were peaceful. Dissatisfaction was expressed at the delays which had occurred in the transit of the mails *via* San Francisco. Mr. Vogel has been appointed Colonial Agent.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

It is reported at New York that Russia has ordered a thousand American mitrailleurs.

Count Louis de Mérode, who has just taken his seat for Brussels in the Belgian Senate, is the first representative of the clerical party who has been elected for many years by a Brussels constituency.

The Mont Cenis Tunnel, which was commenced in 1859, was successfully pierced from both sides on Sunday, amidst loud cries of "Long live Italy." It is seven miles in length.

A Florence journal contradicts the rumour that any correspondence has taken place between the Pope and the King of Prussia.

FRANKING IN THE UNITED STATES.—The House of Representatives has, by a large majority, repeated its vote of last session for the abolition of the franking privilege. It is expected, however, that the Senate will again refuse to concur in the vote.

DR. LIVINGSTONE.—Natal papers say that Mr. Arthur Walker, jun., who arrived in that colony early in October, states that as he left Laydenburg, in the Transvaal, he learnt from Mr. George P. Moodie, who had just returned from Delagoa Bay, that Dr. Livingstone was reported to be at Mozambique, waiting for a homeward-bound vessel.

THE BULGARIAN CHURCH.—A note from the Grand Vizier to the Patriarch has been published, in which the latter is requested to submit to the Porte the programme and scope of the deliberations of a proposed Œcumenical Council for the solution of the Bulgarian ecclesiastical question. The Sultan will now, as formerly, respect the rights of the Patriarch. The Council will probably meet in April.

ABROGATION OF THE FRENCH CONCORDAT.—The correspondent of the *Post* at Rome writes:—"I am informed that instructions have been received quite recently by M. Behaine, now in charge of the French Legation here, to represent to the Holy See how desirous the French Government would be to put into execution the principle now in vogue in Italy of a complete separation between Church and State in France. To achieve this end it would be necessary to abrogate the existing Concordat between France and the Holy See. It is proposed that henceforth the Pope shall enjoy the undivided privilege of nominating all the bishops in France and her colonies, instead of the nomination belonging to the Government as at present, with the Papal right of confirming such nominations."

DISTURBANCES IN ROME.—The *Pall Mall Gazette* correspondent at Rome writes on the 14th inst., giving an account of serious disturbances arising from a demonstration in favour of the Temporal Power on the feast of the Immaculate Conception:—"The Papalini assembled in great numbers at the Jesuit church of Gesù, whence they proceeded, at three o'clock in the afternoon, to attend a religious service at St. Peter's. Meanwhile, the Liberals organised a counter demonstration, under the direction of Tognetti, a brother of the decapitated assassin, and captain in the National Guard. The two factions met on the steps of the porch of St. Peter's, vociferating their respective war cries, '*Viva il Papa-Rè!*' and '*Viva Vittorio Emanuele!*' which were quickly followed by a combat with revolvers, axes, swords, and daggers. The police rushed up and endeavoured to stop the fray, but this could only be done by a company of the Line, which came into the piazza at the charge. By this time the whole Leonine City was in confusion. All the streets leading to St. Peter's were crammed with people, alarmed equally by the conflict and by the furious driving of carriages in flight through the narrow thoroughfares as well as by the sight of the wounded borne away from the spot. Among the last was Tognetti, the leader of the mob, whom the police retained in custody. The police acted impartially, and made their arrests from both factions; but the mob held their ground, and continued to threaten the Vatican till a late hour of the night. The doors of the Apostolic Palace were shut, and the Swiss Guard kept under arms within." Next day the indiscretion of the ex-Pontifical Colonel Azzansio led to a renewal of the disturbances, and the correspondent proceeds to relate various outrages.

It is said that Mr. Scudamore has at the Post-office a new telegraphic instrument by which he reckons that he sends messages at the rate of sixty words per minute. This instrument is to be tried at the Houses of Parliament at the opening of the session, in transmitting the summary of the proceedings in both Houses to the provincial daily papers.

Literature.

BRIEF NOTICES.

War and Judgment; a Sermon Preached in the Church at Crathie in October, 1870, by NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D., one of Her Majesty's Chaplains. This sermon is published by command of Her Majesty, and is dedicated to her. It is remarkable both for eloquence and thought; and is so apt to the sympathies and needs of the times that we are not surprised Her Majesty should have desired a more deliberate meditation upon it than a mere hearing permits. At all events, her subjects may well be grateful to Her Majesty for the preference she has accorded to it. Dr. Macleod is always fresh, full of sympathy, and abounding in phrases and sentences which prove the large heart and the vivid imagination. Amid the daily augmenting details of the most destructive war the world has ever seen, it is surely well to be reminded, in such powerful and persuasive tones, that a Providence really rules over nations as well as over individuals, and that no evil can happen to either without purposes of purification and righteous judgment. The thought is common-place—the most formal and commonplace of religious thoughts, indeed—but the effective realisation of it in character and incident lies at the bottom of every poem and truly great work of human imagination. Dr. Macleod's sermon touches the thought at many points with flashes of light caught from old Testament History. War is a purifier and not without Divine purpose. When Israel wandered away, and, forgetting God, plunged into all sorts of sins and unsanctified pleasures, she was recalled by trials in which war often formed a chief element. Chosen of God in no kind of favouritism, but as a medium to reveal clearly to all nations His awful righteousness, the history of the Jews is absolutely without parallel. But as every nation, just in the measure that it has lofty missions before it, will be compelled into following them out by reason of judgments sent upon it, the Jewish history is eternally charged with national lessons. It is from this point of view that Christian poets, otherwise pledged lovers of peace, have been led to speak of war almost in terms of eulogy. And it is the ground Dr. Macleod occupies too. The central idea of the sermon is expressed in this passage which is well worth quoting :—

"In the 'judgments' of God no *favouritism* to nations is shown. If there be a trace of leniency to one more than another, it is not to the people of Israel, but to the heathen; as when, in the case of Nineveh, God says, 'Should I not spare that great city, wherein are more than six score thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle' (Jon. iv. 2); while in regard to Israel, on the other hand, he says, 'You only have I known of all the families of the earth, *therefore* I will punish you for your iniquities?' (Amos iii. 11). Hence there were no incursions by powerful enemies more frequent than those upon Judea; no sieges more dreadful than those of Jerusalem and Samaria; no captivities more unsparing than when the land of Israel was swept bare of people, its cities left in ruins, and its once fruitful fields and vineyards given up to wild beasts. Moreover, there is no indication given that those chosen to execute His judgments were necessarily any better than those they afflicted. . . . . Nor was there any favouritism or partiality shown to their own people by the seers who pointed out the sins which called for judgment, and prophesied of their coming punishment. The iniquities of kings and of nobles, of priests and of false prophets, and, hardest task of all, those of the people, were exposed and denounced with equal justice; and all were summoned to repentance. These holy men indeed saw God! And so they rose high above all mere local and personal interests and witnessed to the righteousness of His will. . . .

"It is perhaps true that to connect the sufferings of individuals or of nations with their sins may be a very difficult task now-a-days, and one in which the vision of the wisest 'seer' may be perverted by the darkness of ignorance and the bias of his own prejudices or passions. It may also be alleged that, so far as we can discover, God now leaves men to the sole operation of His natural laws, to be punished by the consequences of disobedience to them. But certainly the histories recorded in the Bible were not intended to teach us that, whatever else we need, we need not God Himself; but to impress us rather with the conviction that, over and above law, we have to do with the unseen Lawgiver Himself; and that God did not come into the sphere of human activities long ago, and then depart for ever into the more mysterious and distant heavens, but is 'the everlasting King.'"

This, too, is worth quoting :—

"The Old Testament is the chief source of our information regarding the divine government of nations, in every place and in every age; and is a revelation, through facts of what I may call the politics of Heaven in them. Accordingly, the Old Testament may be said to contain the only real history in existence, inasmuch as it alone professes to record facts in their relationship to a divine plan and purpose. And if principles are here revealed by which the world is governed and moves onward from generation to generation towards the brighter day, we ought not ignorantly to judge on the dial-plate of Time and watch the movement of the hands as if they were self-directed, but should seek rather with an enlightened faith to discern an unseen power behind guiding and governing all, yet without trenching upon humana liberty nd responsibility."

Autobiography of an Indian Officer. By Major H. M. CONRAN. (London: Morgan and Chase.) The fact that Major Conran was the friend and biographer of the late noble Colonel Wheeler, will secure for his autobiography a favourable reception at the hands of the public. The book is the record of the inner life of a soldier, for three-and-twenty years absent from England on Indian service. It is not devoid of interest, and contains some graphic sketches of Indian life and scenery; but the main object of the book is a religious one. As the transcript of the religious life of a Christian soldier, amid unfavourable surroundings in a heathen country, it may be useful to such as are similarly situated. The grafting of the Christian life upon a very rebellious and hardened stock; the weakness, dependence, and unfruitfulness of that early life; the anxiety to be faithful and fruitful gradually imparting strength, and leading to the taking of a decidedly religious stand and to works of usefulness among the irreligious; the history of personal reserve overcome and of failures and successes—these and other experiences are told with an impartiality and humility which betoken the writer's sincerity and redeem his book from that charge of self-seeking which must often attach to such productions. Yet in our view the publication of such a memoir can scarcely be regarded as a sign of *healthy* religious life, apart from indications of a certain morbidness of feeling which the book contains. As is not uncommon with earnest Christian laymen in India, Major Conran passed through various gradations of feeling, from strict and exclusive Churchism to comprehensive liberalism, cordialy co-operating in all honest religious work, and assisting in carrying it on. India affords a fine training ground to men of this stamp, and owes not a little to their piety. As the author remarks, "There "is no borderland or neutral ground in a barrack; and "although, like the infants exposed by the Spartans, "none but strong ones survive, ... still the "sifting process tends to train up a good stock, and to "maintain a vigorous and healthy spirit." The statement that, "It was only through the continued active "connivance of Government itself that idolatry could "be kept afloat in Southern India," is rather a strong statement of a line of policy too long pursued. In urging on all who go to India the desirableness of studying the people and their surroundings, and of entering into the liberal policy of the Government, Major Conran observes as follows :—

"Even in regard to his religion, the native is rarely alienated by exposure of its falsehood or by denunciations, however severe, of his superstitious customs, if in the way of argument and without an overbearing spirit. Nothing is so potent as Christianity for counteracting error and corruption, and even for securing the attachment of the people. Any subserviency to their idolatry or superstition on the part of professing Christians is as much a blunder as a crime.

"How frequently in times of emergency has our Government been compelled to avail itself of the aid of missionaries, who have effected the desired object when all political efforts failed. No governors have obtained such high estimation and influence among the people of India as those who were distinguished for personal religion. Even in periods of general anarchy like that of the late mutiny, persons of such character have often been preserved frequently through the intervention of the natives themselves."

Christ in the Word. By the Rev. F. WHITFIELD, M.A., Senior Curate of Greenwich. (London: Nisbet and Co.) Fourteen Sermons from the Old and New Testaments, "written with the view of bringing out a "few features of the Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in "the Word of God." The author is not unknown to the public as the author of several similar works. The book before us is marked by deep spirituality, and contains some very vigorous writing. It follows closely the object avowed in the preface, tracing out the footprints of Christ, and gathering illustrations of his character and work from many parts of Scripture. This is done with great suggestiveness and considerable power of thought; and, withal, in so intensely practical a manner, that the book can scarcely fail to profit those readers whose sympathies are with the object of the writer. But we should hesitate to follow him as to some of the types of Christ which he finds in Scripture. The author's enthusiasm for the subject sometimes carries him too far, and lays him open to the charge of unduly spiritualising the statements contained in the Scriptures. The book is one to be commended to thoughtful persons, and is throughout intensely earnest in its tone. This is especially evident in the following extract from the chapter on "The Works of the Lord," in which the difference between spiritual life and religious dogmatism is enforced :—

"What we want is living Christians, not denominational partisans; men strong in the Lord, not squabblers about churches; men who will scorn a mean thing, and hate a sinful one; men who love the Saviour too well to stand by calmly and hear His name blasphemed; men who will *dare* to be singular, because the Lord they love was singular, and with whom the worldling's scorn or sneer weighs lighter than a feather; men who can make many an unostentatious sacrifice, who can bear to be thought weak and fanatical and bigoted, knowing that they have in heaven 'a better and an enduring substance.' Yes, if we had such men now, who would fear the power of all the foes in the Church? Where would be Rationalism, Ritualism, Romanism, or empty, hollow, heartless Evangelicalism, before such a display of the life of God? . . . Our Church will never rise by platform denunciations, by denominational partisanship, by hard names and bitter words. It must be by the power of God in the daily life and conduct of her living members. . . . We shall go down, we are going down, we shall continue to go down lower and lower, till we thus begin and live over again. Error has never given way but before the light and power of manifested truth in living men and women. It must be God *in us*; God felt, God seen, God owned, that will ever break the ranks of error. Without this we shall be weak as other men. Without this we shall go down, in spite of all our boasted light and liberty, our political, social, and national privileges."

The Riches of Chaucer. By C. COWDEN CLARKE. Second Edition, carefully revised. (C. Lockwood and Co. 1870.) Of every ten thousand people one meets in the streets, how many may be presumed to have read "Old Chaucer," or to know who he is? To come to the thousands, how many have taken him up and put him down again, as, first, unintelligible, and, second, not worth the trouble to try and understand him? To come again to the hundreds—how many have taken some trouble to understand him, and after the first hundred lines or so, given it up as "worse than Greek"? Well, it is bothering to have to refer to a glossary once or twice in every line, and even then to find that such an editor as Mr. Cowden Clarke takes it for granted that everybody knows the English of the fourteenth century as well as himself. Nevertheless, Chaucer is, as Mr. Cowden Clarke says, "the father of English poetry," and perhaps, as he says elsewhere, "one of the finest "poets that ever lived." It is undoubtedly a most worthy task to which Mr. Clarke has set himself—to give us a Chaucer, "in which his impurities have been "expunged, his spelling modernised, his rhythm accen-"tuated, and his obsolete terms explained: also have "been added a few explanatory notes and a new memoir "of the poet." Such a task was not a light one. It has been evidently a labour of love with Mr. Clarke. Who that remembers his school and college days can think of what the task is, to "scan" some 20,000 lines, in which the metre is not set or fixed, as it is, for the most part, in Greek and Latin, but where the "quan-"tities" are as they were in Chaucer's time. In this respect, and in this only, the book will bear revision.

The Window; or the Loves of the Wrens. Songs by ALFRED TENNYSON, Music by ARTHUR SULIVAN. (Strahan and Co.) This collection of songs may well excite pleasurable anticipation to all lovers of poetry and music, connected as it is with two names so well known to almost every English home. Mr. Tennyson's poetry is always hailed with gladness and read with avidity, and during the last few years Mr. Sullivan's music has received an almost equally hearty greeting. Here we have the united effort of both to make a Christmas book, which will be equally looked forward to by many who know how rare a thing it is to find a really good song set to really good music. We venture to suggest that if any are disappointed, we fancy the fault is not with the songs or the music but lies nearer home. The first song "On the Hill," is wonderfully expressive in its changes of melody, and the modulations, too, are full of feeling. The second, "At the Window," is quiet, graceful, and most musical; "Spring" full of playful, characteristic, rippling melody; and No. 6, "The Letter," which has been introduced into this month's *Good Words*, is a quaint little gem. We cannot help regretting that the song "Ay" has not been set to music; it seems to us, it is one so suited to Mr. Sullivan's style of music, and would make such a charming little song. But we must not grumble, for our musical feast is one worthy of a brighter Christmas than this, which it will help to brighten for many.

Four Hundred Millions. Chapters on China and the Chinese. By the Rev. A. E. MOULE, Missionary at Ning-po. (London: Seeley, Jackson, and Halliday.) In seven chapters and an appendix, some of which have previously appeared in other forms, this book gives a few surface views of Chinese religion and social life, gleaned during residence at Ning-po. The principal subjects glanced at are the religions, language, superstitions, beggars, and proverbs of the Chinese; while a couple of chapters are devoted to a summary and a comparison of the results of missionary operations. The book being intended for general readers, it seems strange that scarcely any reference should be made to Protestant missions other than those of the Church Missionary Society. Indeed, it is only by inference that one gathers that there was any mission work at Ning-po carried on by agents of other bodies. Such narrowness is indefensible. The preface consisting mainly of a plea in mitigation of the late Chinese massacres, judgment upon which it is hoped the book will tend to soften, we were surprised to find nothing therein calculated to throw light upon the matter. The style of the writing is good, and the *fac-similes* of Chinese engravings are, of course, quaint.

Sermons on Historical Subjects. By the Rev. D. ROWLANDS, B.A. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.) Eighteen sermons on subjects taken alternately from the Old and New Testaments. Without displaying any speciality, they are written in a style suitable to the character of the subjects treated, and calculated to invest them with interest, especially for the young. The absence of narrowness and sectarianism is a commendable feature. Under the heading, "Worldly Views of "Religion," commenting on Christ's question to Pilate the author writes thus :—

"Many of these men are pretty well informed as regards the views and practices of their own sect; they could give prompt and accurate answers to anything you might choose to ask them touching these things; but, after all, were you to ask one of them in reference to the most important article in his creed, 'Sayest thou this thing of thyself?' he would be bound as an honest man to answer, 'No; I do not say it of myself; I merely endorse the opinion of others.' In a country like ours, where reli-

gion is so generally respected, we are all more or less liable to this. We may follow the religious course prescribed for us by those who have had charge of our education—follow it carelessly, unthinkingly, without stopping to inquire whether it be right or wrong."

The Lost Found, and the Wanderer Welcomed. By the Rev. W. M. TAYLOR, M.A., Author of "The "Miracles Helps to Faith, not Hindrances." (Edinburgh: Oliphant and Co.) Six sermons on the fifteenth chapter of Luke, under the titles of "The Lost Sheep," "The Lost Coin," and "The Prodigal Son." These sermons are simple and faithful delineations of Scripture truth, very suggestive and practical. Each of them has two sides; one in which the story of the parable is made to illustrate our daily life, and another in which the spiritual meaning is brought out. As sermons, they are interesting and spirited, and being copiously illustrated from real life, are well adapted to attract the attention of the young. That upon "The Lost Coin" is particularly suggestive.

Tales from Chaucer, in Prose, Designed Chiefly for the Use of Young Persons. By C. COWDEN CLARKE. Second Edition, carefully revised. (C. Lockwood and Co., London.) Here is a Chaucer for 1870. Chaucer made easy. Chaucer revivified. The fourteenth century made intelligible to the nineteenth. It was a happy idea of Mr. Clarke's, and we have no doubt that hundreds of young people will read with eagerness "The Knight's Tale," and "The Man of Law's Tale," and "The Friar's Tale," and "The Clerk's Tale" and the rest, and will want by-and-by to read the real old original Chaucer, which Mr. Clarke has made ready to their hands.

Home Religion. By the Rev. W. B. MACKENZIE, M.A., Vicar of St. James's, Holloway. (Cassell, Petter and Galpin.) This little work went through the press while its esteemed author was lying on what proved to be his death-bed. It is of just the character that we would have expected from Mr. Mackenzie—not original, not profound, but wise, impressive, and godly—written out of a full heart and with the loftiest Christian purpose. It is admirably adapted to the culture of family piety.

Shall we Know one Another? by Rev. J. C. RYLE, and *The Voice of Time*, by JOHN STROUD (Cassell and Co.), are better recommended by their neat and handy appearance than by any distinguishing merit of style or matter. They consist of a series of "sermonettes" bound in limp cloth with red edges, size about 5 by 4 inches.

MORE CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

The Story of Captain Cook's Three Voyages round the World. M. JONES. (Cassell and Co.). The story of Captain Cook's voyages cannot fail to be a fascinating one to all lovers of adventure, and it may therefore be predicted with tolerable certainty that this handsome book, so abundantly illustrated, will be a favourite wherever it may find its way to a boy old enough to understand it.

The Wonderful Pocket and *The Gate of Pearl*, by CHAUNCEY GILES (Oliphant and Co.), are reprints of American stories, neither better nor worse than scores of books written by English authors for the present season. They are both written with a religious intent, and will turn the thoughts of young readers to those works of love to which the Christmas season specially invites.

The Fall of Jerusalem and Roman Conquests in Judea (Nelson and Sons), is one of a class of books of which there are few. Cheap, well printed, attractively illustrated, it contains a really valuable historical narrative adapted for juvenile readers. The author has drawn from Josephus, Milman, and Merivale. The siege of Jerusalem by Titus will but too sadly remind even young readers of the miseries of the besieged Parisians.

The Young People's Pocket-book (Religious Tract Society) deserves a good word.

The Boot on the Wrong Foot, and other Tales, (Cassell and Co.), *Little Content, and other Stories*, by EDITH WALFORD (Cassell and Co.), *Tommy and his Broom* (Cassell and Co.), are very readable books, all belonging to Messrs. Cassell's one shilling series of story books (illustrated). They are especially suitable for presentation to Sunday scholars and young persons in domestic service, although there is nothing in their character to limit their usefulness to such a class. *Labour Stands on Golden Feet*, by HEINRICH ZSCHOKKE (Cassell and Co.), *Autobiographies of a Lump of Coal, a Grain of Salt, a Drop of Water, &c., &c.*, by ANNIE CAREY (Cassell and Co.), are more advanced compositions, the first aiming to illustrate in a domestic story the blessings of a careful home training and of habits of industry; the second happily combining scientific instruction with amusement. These belong to the half-crown series.

Little Redcap, a tale for boys (Religious Tract Society), is a very simple, touching story of filial love and gratitude, quite worthy of the reputation of the Religious Tract Society.

The following obituary notice appears in the *West Briton* (Truro) of the 15th inst.:—"At Polseath, St. Minver, on the 7th inst., after a long and painful illness, Mrs. Henry Treverton, aged seventy-five years. She was intelligent, industrious, frugal, and was never seen out of temper."

Court, Official, and Personal News.

According to annual usage, the Royal charities were distributed at the Almonry Office in Scotland-yard last week, to aged, disabled, and meritorious poor who had been recommended by clergymen and others of the various parishes in and round London to the Queen's High Almoner and to the sub-Almoner, and who were selected for participation in these bounties. There were over 1,000 persons relieved.

On Saturday Her Majesty distributed Christmas gifts to the wives and children of the labourers on the Osborne estate. The Queen entered the servants' hall at four o'clock, accompanied by the Royal Family, when Her Majesty distributed the gifts.

The Queen and their Royal Highnesses Princess Louise and Princess Beatrice attended Divine service at Whippingham Church on Sunday morning. The Rev. George Prothero preached the sermon.

Saturday witnessed the usual annual distribution of Christmas cheer, meat, materials for plum puddings, &c., to the poor on the estate of the Prince of Wales at Sandringham, and one or two adjoining villages. The distribution of the good things was personally witnessed by the Prince and Princess. Some presents of clothing were also made.

It is said that the Ministerial changes consequent upon the resignation of Mr. Bright will not be made at present. The London correspondent of the *Scotsman* writes:—"I hear that there is a probability that the Presidency of the Board of Trade will be offered to Mr. Chichester Fortescue. The reason for this will be to make Mr. Cardwell the Secretary for Ireland, and Lord Northbrook Secretary of War. Mr. Lefevre, who has done so well at the Board of Trade, will take Lord Northbrook's place, having the conduct of war business in the House of Commons The next probability is, that if Mr. Chichester Fortescue refuses the Presidency, it will be offered to Mr. Stansfeld, and that Mr. Lefevre will become Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Otway has resigned the Under-Secretaryship for Foreign Affairs, and will be succeeded by Lord Enfield, M.P. Mr. Davison, M.P., Q.C., will be the new Judge Advocate-General, in the room of Sir Colman O'Loghlen."

It is stated that Lord John Hay will shortly be succeeded at the Admiralty by Rear-Admiral Hornby, and that Sir Spencer Robinson will resign.

The *Scotsman* announces the death of one of its proprietors, Mr. John Ritchie, in his ninety-third year. He was the last of its originators, and had been its commercial head for forty years.

The Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal is about to be filled by the appointment of Mr. George Campbell, of Edenwood. The office is one of the highest and most arduous of any in the gift of the British or, indeed, any other Crown.

Sir James Watts, Knight, of Abney Hall, Cheadle, will be the High Sheriff of Lancashire for the ensuing year.

A military contemporary learns that the Army Estimates will not be laid before Parliament in any manner out of the ordinary routine, and that they will not be of any extraordinary character.

Many friends and admirers of M. Doré will be glad to learn that he is reported to be in Paris and unharmed.

The death is announced of Mr. Thomas Brewer, the secretary of the City of London School, which occurred on Christmas Day, after a brief illness.

It is rumoured that Mr. J. P. Brown-Westhead, M.P. for York city, is about to resign his seat on account of bad health.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

The eclipse of the sun was seen very fairly in London, on Thursday, notwithstanding the unpromising aspect of the weather. Early in the morning there was overhead a dense, impenetrable, uniform, low canopy of grey cloud, from which the snow flakes fell gyrating in one of those beautiful showers which were prominent and frequent features in the winters of old. The ground, whitecoated, was crisp and hard, and there was not a sign of the slightest change in the aspect of the weather.

About a quarter to twelve, however, a single opening broke forth, and the sun, with a deeply indented gash upon the western side of its disc, burst forth in a temporary but lurid glory, tinging with glowing red the fringes of the surrounding vapours. Closed up once more behind the misty veil, few expected to see him again, but soon the clouds began to separate in large masses. Again and again there were gleams of sunshine, and again and again were they dimmed until the clouds had risen as it were into a vast ethereal dome, completely disrupted, and piled like mountains one upon the other, patches of the blue infinityof space peering through the vapoury ravines. As the sun now gained its majestic supremacy, the actual form of the moon was seen completely displayed in its rotundity as a huge slate-coloured globe.

As seen through a powerful reflecting telescope of 13 inches in aperture and 10 feet focus, the sun presented two grand collections of spots, and a third group of two small ones. These outbreaks, though very interesting, are far less numerous than is usual at those maximum periods of intensity of which the present is one. "The willow leaves"—a peculiar rough, thatched, or mottled appearance of the surface—were at times seen with remarkable distinctness. The moon's disc was very sharply defined, and the irregularities of its mountainous districts perfectly distinct. The sun was obscured from view at the greatest phase, but soon afterwards the sky became clear, and remained nearly open and free from clouds until long after the last contact of the moon's limb with the solar disc.

Mr. Lockyer, conducting the Scientific Commission for the observation of the recent eclipse, has forwarded the following telegram:—

"CATANIA, Dec. 22, 9.40 P.M.

"Observations of eclipse greatly interfered with by unfavourable weather, but substantial results have been secured. A definite (contact?) of the corona was noticed at a height of about one-third of radius as presented for corona. The sphero-spectroscopic method for first contact was successfully employed. The American observations of last year upon the corona are confirmed."

The Astronomer Royal has received the following telegram, which was despatched by Lord Lindsay immediately after the eclipse, but which arrived only on Saturday morning. Lord Lindsay's place of observation was La Maria Louisa, which appears to be near Puerto, the mainland station opposite Cadiz. A few corrections were necessary to the telegram, but it is believed that all are certain:—

"Photographs successful. Two good pictures of corona. Polariscope doubtful. Sketching good. Corona [gives] continuous spectrum, no lines. Broken sky."

COMPLETION OF THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL.

(From the *Daily Telegraph*.)

Il n'y a plus des Alpes! So far as regards travelling and the intercourse of nations, we may repeat the old saying about the Pyrenees, and declare that "the Alps exist no longer." One blow has abolished the giant group which used to stand up like a barrier between the north and the south of our Continent; but, then, the same blow was the last of innumerable sturdy assaults on the rocky wall, and it finished the "Mont Cenis Tunnel" by letting the air pass through between the French and the Italian excavations. If ever there was a stroke which might, indeed, be called "striking," of all delivered by human industry, it was certainly that one, telegraphed to us with such brief and unmistakeable triumph, which has thus consummated the long labour, and made a smooth highroad clear through the very body of the mountain. Modern engineering is conducted upon such sure principles that there is no particular need to be astonished at the nice accuracy with which the miners from the opposite sides of the Alps have wormed their slow way, in the dark, amid the very roots of the giant hills, two miles deep under ground, and many miles long, without failing to hit exactly upon each other. Yet it must have been pleasant when the French engineers a few days ago distinctly heard the noise made by those of Italy boring on the further face of the small portion of remaining rock. This was soon reduced to a mere screen; and afterwards, in presence of all sorts of distinguished persons, the steel points which had done so much were set going, and "the Alps were abolished." Somebody put his hand through the hole, and grasped the hand of somebody from the other side; nor could a better act of symbolism have been performed. At the moment of that joyous grip, the avalanche and the torrent were "played out," as obstacles to human progress, for now Europe has a certain and easy path in all weathers and seasons, from one side of the Continent to the other, without taking the long round by Marseilles and Nice, or by the Sommering and Vienna. It is true we already possessed the Mont Cenis "Summit Railway"; but, with the proudest respect for the inventor of that aerial line, the travelling public would, one and all have said, "We do not like thee, Mr. Fell!" It was excessively clever in conception and construction, and will be copied hereafter upon many a mountain barrier as a means of passage; but, as a link in European communication, it was hazardous, slow, and unpleasant, albeit wonderfully novel and picturesque for a trip once or twice. And although Mr. Fell gave you fresh air and daylight, the atmosphere of his avalanche-shed was choking. The line, moreover, was often blocked with snow, and at best a day was required for crossing from Italy to France by the summit-line. All honour, we repeat, to the bold engineer who used to carry us, with our hearts in our mouths, skimming along the edges of frightful precipices, with sharp turns, at which the train would have dropped a couple of thousand feet if anything had occurred to the breaks. Mr. Fell did very creditably—we are not aware that he ever let a train-load of his passengers fall into Italy just as they were entering France; but the new opening will whisk us through much faster and more safely; and the enormous convenience of an unbroken line is even more than the mere saving of time.

The tunnel does not run, as many persons fancy, beneath the well-known pass of Mount Cenis. It pierces the foundations of Mont Fréjus, several leagues west of that *col*, under a ridge which attains the height of very nearly ten thousand feet. The highest peak of the chain through which the wonderful new road is pierced bears the name of Mont Tabor, and is considerably over ten thousand feet in altitude—not, of course, that it makes any practical difference in tnunelling whether the supersoil be thick or thin; but still it must be an imposing reflection for travellers to bear in mind, as they go through, that there is nearly two miles of solid ceiling over their heads. Not much fear of avalanches, or snowstorms, under that *abri* of limestone and granite! Moreover, the grateful

traveller will add to this experience the singular feeling of being right under the very fountains of two of the principal European rivers. The chain through which he passes in easy levels is the watershed of the Rhine and the Po: on one side it pours down feeders to the great stream, which debouches into the Gulf of Lyons; on the other, it supplies the river Dora to that classic channel which flows by Pavia, Piacenza, and Mantua, into the head of the Adriatic, creating Lombardy and Venice. In summer the difference of climate and vegetation will be also very remarkable. Leaving the meadows of St. Jean de Maurienne, where all is "of the North, Northern," a whisk through the dark, not exceeding half an hour or so in duration, will land the traveller among the flax-fields and mulberry-gardens of the country of the patient Griselda, where the vines are festooned from tree to tree, and all the sheltered corners show great yellow *zaccas* and bearded maize-heads. What a climb that half-hour of darkness will save by Lanslebourg and Modane, and how it will diminish the importance of the Simplon, the Splugen, and the St. Gothard, with the other steep and cold gateways of the Alps! We shall arrive at the foot of the giants which bothered Hannibal and Napoleon so much, and which have cost us all such delays and toils. No splitting the rocks with fire and vinegar, no slow mounting of winding roads; not even Mr. Fell and his wonderful panting horse with wheels to its belly will be necessary. We shall flash into the dark with a whistle, whisk out again with a scream, conveyed in thirty or forty minutes from one side to the other of the Alps. Thanks to the bold conceptions of Signor Medail and the ingenious machinery of M. Mans, who has set water and air to bore and excavate the tunnel till the mighty enterprise has been accomplished, a train can run through from Macon to Venice or Brindisi, without need for the traveller to change carriages.

The work, no doubt, has occupied a long time, and cost a great deal of money, but it will splendidly repay both cost and patience. There can be little doubt that a vast traffic will pass through this great human burrow under Mont Fréjus. Persons going to all parts of the Riviera and Italy—to Venice, Trieste, Greece, the Levant, and Syria—will find the tunnel their natural and shortest route. It will bring back to Turin a large part of that prosperity which the Piedmontese capital lost when it abdicated in favour of Florence; and it will be a high road for "Genoa the Superb" to all parts of northern and western Europe. But Brindisi is the city which will profit most quickly and most fortunately by the new road, because the tunnel really is a supplementary work to the Suez Canal, and thus can hardly fail to become the regular line to India and the East. Brindisi, we conjecture, is likely—when this new convenience grows into daily use—to grow into the Marseilles of Italy; for Italy is like a huge landing-pier thrust out into the Mediterranean, and the Mount Cenis Tunnel gives her a continuous railway, resembling the Dover harbour line upon a magnificent scale. From Brindisi to Alexandria is a sea voyage of but three days, and, thanks to the present war, the Indian mails are already getting accustomed to come and go by way of the port of Horace. Alas! what mischief the fatal folly of "glory" is doing to France! Her dead and wounded, her wasted fields and lost harvests, are only a small portion of her punishment. Just when she most wants five hundred millions sterling to carry out great works of development, in order to preserve the place of Marseilles and Lyons in the hierarchy of commerce, this wretched fantasy of "glory" and "frontiers" has led her to waste men, means, and money in a struggle, the cost of which will be so frightful that no Frenchman seems to have courage to estimate it. However, albeit the chief profit of the Alpine Tunnel must fall into the treasure-chest of Italy, it will of course benefit France too, and every country will make use of it. That, in truth, renders the difference between the cost of the victories of war and peace so profoundly instinctive. By peace all the world benefits; war inflicts loss even on the conquerors; and, while we admire the completion of this audacious labour, who can fail to reflect what glorious enterprises might have been carried out with the gold which France and Germany have wasted in the present unnecessary and miserable contest.

THE IRISH VACANCIES.—No opposition candidate has yet been started for the county of Meath. The Hon. Mr. Plunkett will, probably, have a walk over. The election takes place on Monday next. The names of Lord Newry, Mr. Richardson, of Bessbrook, and Mr. Whitworth, are mentioned in connection with the vacancy in the representation of Newry, caused by the death of Mr. Kirk.

THE FROST.—The temperature in London on Monday and yesterday ranged from 26 deg. to 30 deg. The wind was from N.E., and was accompanied during the day by a considerable fall of snow. About seven o'clock the snow began to fall more heavily, and early this morning it had a depth of from six inches to a foot. About 60,000 persons went to the parks yesterday for skating and sliding. The upper parts of the Thames are now frozen over, and yesterday, in consequence of the large quantity of detached ice floating about, the steamboat traffic was partially suspended. The temperature yesterday fell generally through the United Kingdom, especially in the north. The frost in Worcestershire is very severe. The Severn is frozen over, and yesterday at Worcester was covered with skaters and sliders. At Thurso the thermometer recorded 20 degrees of frost.

THE OPIUM TRAFFIC IN CHINA.

BY THE REV. GRIFFITH JOHN, OF HANKOW.

Conclusion.

I have now endeavoured to describe some of the evils of opium-smoking, and have only a few additional remarks to add. The following description of its effects by the *natives*, will help us to form a more vivid conception of its destructiveness. One writes thus:—"The evils of opium are great; those who take it lose their property, waste their time, destroy their morals, and injure their reputation. Those who have ability become dull and stupid; their strength and vigour change into weakness and frailty; they fall into a lower stage and sink into the rank of demons. All the bamboos growing on the Southern Mountains would be insufficient to describe the evils of opium. It would take all the waters of the North Sea to wash away the stains of opium from the heart." Another writes:—"Were it only injurious to property, the baneful influence of opium would be of inferior importance; but, when regarded as hurtful to the people, it demands most serious consideration; for on the people lies the very foundation of the empire." Another writes:—"It is not only that year by year they (the foreigners) abstract so many millions of our money, but the direful appearances seem to indicate a wish on their part utterly to root out and extirpate us as a people. I repeat that, from the time of our becoming a nation till now, never did any evil, at first so bland, so enticing, blaze so fearfully as this dreadful poison." "The master and governor," says another, "must have a meaning in causing it (opium-smoking). He must intend to destroy the nation. There is no other way of accounting for the love of the Chinese for opium. They know its baneful effects perfectly well, but still are exceedingly fond of smoking it. He must purpose our national destruction." "If there exist," wrote the Viceroy of Canton province many years ago, "a drug destructive of life, incessant efforts should be made to keep it at a distance. Having used the drug for some time, the men accustomed to it can by no means relinquish it. Their faces become as sharp as sparrows; their heads sink beneath their shoulders in the form of a dove; poison flows into their inmost vitals; physic cannot cure their disease; repentance comes too late for reform." Another writes:—"It may be compared to raising the wick of a lamp, which, while it increases the blaze, hastens the exhaustion of the oil, and the extinction of the light. From the robust who smoke, the flesh is gradually consumed and worn away, and the skin hangs like a bag, their faces become cadaverous and blank, and their bones naked like billets of wood. Mucus flows from their nostrils, and tears from their eyes; their very bodies are rotten and putrid. It exhausts the animal spirits, impedes the regular performance of business, wastes the flesh and blood, dissipates every kind of property, renders the person ill-favoured, promotes obscenity, violates the laws, attacks the vitals, and destroys life. In comparison with arsenic, I pronounce it tenfold the greater poison." It is in this way the natives, who are by no means ignorant of the use and effects of ardent spirits, speak and write of opium-smoking. In reading the above we are reminded of the confession of Coleridge. "I used to think," he says, "the text in St. James, 'that he who offends in one point offends in all,' very harsh, but now I feel the awful, the tremendous truth of it. In the one crime of opium, what crimes have I not made myself guilty of; ingratitude to my Maker, to my benefactors injustice, an unnatural cruelty to my poor children, self-contempt for my repeated promise-breach, nay, too often actual falsehoods. After my death I earnestly entreat that a full and unqualified narrative of my wretchedness, and the guilty cause, may be made public; that, at least, some little good may be effected by the dreadful example." There are at least *five millions* of the Chinese who might leave behind them confessions as gloomy, if not more gloomy, than that of Coleridge, and for this fearful state of things England is deeply responsible.

In order to complete this picture, allow me to give an illustration of the demoralising effects of the traffic in opium on the trader. Let us forget the smuggler of the past and come to the respectable and highly respected opium-merchant to-day. It is pitiful to notice how it blunts the mental vision and stupifies the moral sense in his case. Were the words not to be found in black and white, it would be impossible to believe that men with two eyes in their heads and hearts beating within their breasts, could make such statements, and express themselves in such terms as the following:—"We enter upon this subject with none of the delicacy or hesitation which, out of deference to the preconceived ideas of many well-meaning people, we should have experienced eight years ago. During these eight years the trade in opium has been ventilated, and all fallacies and fables have been cleared away. The horrible pictures formerly drawn of the evil result to the population of China from the comparatively unrestrained importation of this drug are well nigh forgotten, or mentioned only to raise a smile at their absurdity, for since 1860 it has been rendered abundantly clear that the use of opium is not a curse, but a comfort and benefit to the hard working Chinese. As well say that malt is a curse to the English labourer, or tobacco one to the world at large! Misuse is one thing, use is another. If to a few the opium pipe has proved a fatal snare, to many scores of thousands on the other hand has it been productive of heartfelt sustentation and enjoyment. Were we not well assured that these statements are true, we should not press this matter as we are now doing; but after the evidence of the past, we feel justified in claiming that those who deal in opium shall be permitted to suppply the inland Chinese with the drug, as freely as are the dwellers at the ports." These words are to be found in a memorial addressed to the Governor of Hong Kong, November 28th, 1867, by Messrs. Jardine, Matheson, and Co., praying that the Chinese might be prevailed upon to allow the removal of the restrictions imposed upon opium. It is difficult to say which astonishes one most in reading the above quotation, whether the ignorance or the effrontery displayed in it. It is a sad instance of the terribly degrading effects of the vile trade in opium on all who engage in it. Opium seems to sink both the seller and the customer, and to blast all that is godlike in both alike. When we think of either, we ask spontaneously—Where is the *man*? On the one side we see the opulent trader; but where is the *moral* man?

Such are some of the many evils which attend the use of, and the trade in, opium. I have stated nothing but facts well known to all who have paid serious attention to the subject, and denied by none save those who are blinded by the love of filthy lucre, or those who are too indolent and heartless to look at the question with that earnestness of spirit which genuine sympathy with suffering humanity creates. If there is any truth in what I have said, the trade in opium must be pronounced immoral in the extreme, and utterly unworthy of Christian men or of a great Christian country. A sense of honour and justice ought to be sufficient to prevent every Englishman from touching the accursed thing. "No trade in this country," observe the merchants of Shanghai in their letter to Lord Clarendon, "would deserve the sanction of international covenants which had not the improvement of the condition of the natives for one of the most fundamental conditions." Amen, I say, to this excellent sentiment. Let the foreign merchants in China act upon it, and the opium trade will perish swiftly. The adoption of this principle would cause every honourable merchant in China to set his face determinedly against the pernicious traffic. But to lay down a sound principle is one thing, to act up to it, when pecuniary interests are involved, is quite another thing. This is strikingly exemplified in the general cry of dissatisfaction raised against that article in the Convention, which stipulates that the import duty on opium shall be raised from 30 taels to 50 taels. It seems that the British Government derives, as producer, a revenue of 200 taels per picul from the drug; but it is deemed unreasonable on the part of the Chinese Government, though *forced* to tolerate its importation, to demand 50 taels per picul. Opium is not simply an article of luxury. It is emphatically an article of vice, and as such, if taxed at all, ought to bear a prohibitive, if not a repressive taxation. In this matter the Chinese are acting wisely and justly, and nothing but the extreme selfishness of the foreign traders could blind them to the fact. I fear nothing can be gained by pleading with the foreign merchants in China in behalf of the Chinese on the opium question. As long as it continues to be a paying trade, they will never abandon it voluntarily.

I fear that any direct appeal to the British Government would be equally useless. We cannot but feel profoundly ashamed of the relation of our Government to this vile traffic. Of the opium sent to China by India, "37,000 chests are produced in the Bombay Presidency, and are subject to an export duty of 600 rupees per chest, and the remainder is cultivated in Bengal, under Government superintendence and control, and at Government risk, the ryot receiving a fixed sum equal to about 400 rupees per chest, and the revenue receiving the benefit of the advanced prices obtained at the monthly auction sales at Calcutta." The production in Bengal is encouraged by

arge loans to the cultivators, who are required to bring all their opium to the warehouses of the Government, where it is sold by auction to agents and hawkers. Thus the greater part of this vast trade is now in the hands, and under the control, of the British Government. But, what is worse still, the relation of the Government to it is most undignified and dishonourable. It does not only derive a revenue from the trade, but is actually a planter and cultivator of the poppy; a producer and dealer in an article which diminishes the comfort and shortens the existence of millions of men. Still, it is to be feared that, whilst the trade continues to form one of the main sources of revenue to the Indian Empire, the British Government is likely to persist in turning the blind eye to the glass, and declare that it sees nothing, and that there is nothing to see. It is certain, however, that other considerations will, sooner or later, compel the Government to consider this question. The import of the Indian drug has reached its highest limit, and is now retrograding. The native article is displacing it rapidly in the interior of the country, and is beginning to compete successfully with it at the distant seaports. Even at Canton the dealers mix three-tenths of the indigenous with seven-tenths of the foreign drug. Moreover, the native article is improving every year. Even now the "touch" of the Yun-nan is equal to that of the Patna; and, though the Malwa is much superior to anything China has yet produced, the Chinese have only to repeat the process of procuring fresh seed from Behar, and again studying the cultivation and manufacture there, to turn out a native article that shall equal the best foreign drug in strength and flavour, and thus ultimately drive India out of the field. Though there be no sudden collapse in the opium revenue, it is certain that, henceforth, there will be a steady decline, and the Government may be constrained yet, even from purely selfish motives, to adopt a different policy. How much nobler it would be to do the right and just thing now!

It is, I think, high time for the people of England to take this important question into serious consideration, and demand that justice should be done to China. Let the people of England demand that, at least, the Government should cease to have a share in the planting and cultivation of the poppy, that it should no longer make advances to the cultivators, that it should break up its opium warehouses, and that its monopoly of and traffic in opium should come to a speedy and perpetual end. Let them demand, too, that the Government, instead of trading in the drug, should make it bear a heavy export duty on its way through Calcutta, with the view of discouraging its cultivation in Bengal; and that every encouragement and facility should be given to those who might be disposed to exchange for the cultivation of opium the cultivation of the more generous fruits of the earth. There can be no difficulty in requesting the Government to do this much, whatever views may be held as to its power arbitrarily to forbid the cultivation of the poppy in any part of Her Majesty's dominions. But what is wanted is *absolute* prohibition. England should not allow this poisonous plant to be grown in, or pass through, any part of her territories, save for medicinal purposes. Whether this can be done consistently with our constitutional laws, I must leave others to discuss. I only maintain that the laws of justice, honour, and fairness, demand that England should wash her hands clean of this foul trade as soon as possible. She owes this to herself; and she owes this to China. The relation between the two countries can never be what it ought to be whilst this traffic lasts. It were, indeed, a sad thing for the Chinese, if they could contemplate intercourse with us complacently and cherish us lovingly, whilst we are destroying them as individuals, as families, and as a nation with a deadly poison. Thank God! they have not sunk so low that they cannot see and feel the selfishness and the inhumanity of the policy which England has been pursuing in regard to the trade in opium. Whilst doting on the fatal drug, they turn away with aversion from the enemy that has put it within their reach. Can we blame them for this? Is it not as it ought to be? And were this aversion not to exist, would we not conclude that the Chinese had reached the very lowest depth of moral degradation? They are not yet past feeling, and, perhaps, not past recovery, if England even now would only act rightly by them.

England has nothing to lose, but everything to gain, by doing China justice in this matter. "Cease," said a Taw-tai of Shanghai, "to send us so much opium, and we will be able to take your manufactures." The Chinese cannot purchase both the Indian opium and the Western manufactures, and, hence, this destructive traffic is injurious to every branch of trade, to say nothing of the deep disgrace with which it stains the British character. Put an end to the opium trade, make it piracy to introduce a particle of it into the country, and the Chinese will take our Lancashire and Yorkshire goods in exchange for their tea and silk, and both England and China will be benefited. I believe that fair and honourable commerce between the two countries is capable of indefinite expansion; and that it only requires to sweep this "foreign poison" out of the way in order to make the Chinese our best customers. Allow me to conclude this letter by appealing to all concerned in the language of the famous Lin in his letter to Queen Victoria, "In the ways Heaven no partiality exists, and no sanction is allowed to the injuring of others for the advantage of one's self; and in man's natural desires there is no diversity—all seek life. . . . To seek one's own advantage by other men's injury is, abhorrent to the nature of man, and utterly opposed to the way of Heaven."

Miscellaneous.

NATIONAL CHORAL SOCIETY.—The Annual Performance of the *Messiah* will be given by the National Choral Society this evening, at Exeter Hall, under the direction of Mr. George Martin. A large part of the Hall has been appropriated to shilling seats in order to give the working classes an opportunity of hearing this sublime work. The band and chorus will be on the usual extensive scale.

GREAT SNOWSTORM IN YORKSHIRE.—During the greater part of Sunday and Monday snow fell continuously across the two Ridings, and on some of the moors it is reported two feet deep on the level. The night was tolerably still, and drifting is not great, therefore the railway traffic got through, except in some of the moor places on the mineral lines. Great numbers of people were on the Castle Howard and Welham Lakes, on ice rough from snow. Some accidents occurred, including one to a lady.

A MEMORIAL MONUMENT TO MRS. SUSANNAH WESLEY, the mother of John Wesley, was uncovered at the City-road Wesleyan Chapel last week. The service commenced in the chapel, where, after singing a hymn, and a prayer, Dr. Jobson delivered an oration, in the course of which he dwelt at some length on the virtues and excellencies of Mrs. Susannah Wesley. The congregation then adjourned to the chapel-yard, and Mr. W. M'Arthur, M.P., uncovered an elegant white marble monument, very simple in its design, and ornamented by wreaths of flowers chastely carved in marble. Suitable addresses were made by Mr. M'Arthur and Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., the Vice-Chairman of the Education Board.

THE SMITH O'BRIEN STATUE was unveiled in Dublin on Monday. It stands at the south side of Carlisle-bridge, near D'Olier-street, and is a fair representation of the original. The unveiling ceremony was performed to the "national" music of a large number of street bands, the leaders of which wore green and feathers. The din was dreadful, amid which Mr. John Martin pronounced a eulogium upon Smith O'Brien. This speech took the form also of a prophecy, and ended with the words, "We feel that this great demonstration—this demonstration of so many scores of thousands of Irishmen, all animated with the same sentiment of Ireland's right—betokens that a day will come—a day has come—when the music and banners of the citizen soldiery of Dublin celebrate in triumph the success of the holy cause to which his life was devoted." The city was quiet, the skating in the Phœnix Park and ponds, as a superior attraction, having drawn off immense crowds of the populace.

THE IRISH AMNESTY.—The satisfaction expressed on all hands on the first announcement of the release of the Fenian prisoners is now qualified by expressions of discontent at the "decree of exile" accompanying the amnesty. The *Cork Examiner* says that when writing first on the subject, it was under the impression that only in exceptional cases was this limitation to the release to be operative. It regrets to find that it was mistaken, being of opinion that "the reservation mars to some extent the grace of the concession and the good effect that a display of entire confidence would have wrought on our population." The *Tipperary Free Press* calls the amnesty "a blundering half measure, which consigns our countrymen to perpetual banishment from the land of their affections—from the homes in which they were loved so devotedly." Funds are being collected for the relief of the prisoners on their release.

ACCIDENTS IN PLACES OF WORSHIP.—The heating apparatus of the boiler at Hollywalk Congregational Chapel, Leamington, exploded on Sunday whilst being prepared for the morning service. The front of the boiler was blown out, several windows in the building were smashed to atoms, and the large entrance doors forced off their hinges; the attendant narrowly escaped being killed, and the explosion, which shook the adjoining premises, caused great alarm in the neighbourhood. The accident arose from the water in the pipes being frozen. An alarming outbreak of fire occurred on Sunday morning in St. Margaret's Church, Oxford-road, Manchester, owing to the overheating of the warming apparatus. The congregation were dismissed without accident, and the flames were extinguished by the exertions of the fire brigade, but not until the communion table and several pews had been destroyed.

CHARITABLE RELIEF.—The Earl of Lichfield Chairman of the Society for Organising Charitable Relief and Repressing Mendicity, writes to the *Times*:—"We hear complaints that mendicity is reviving, and that street beggars refuse to accept the tickets of the Charity Organisation Committee, on the plea that their cases are not attended to at the charity offices. It is of the first importance that the public should not give money to applicants in the streets without inquiry; so long as benevolent persons listen to every appeal which touches their feelings it is impossible to repress mendicity or check imposture. It is not the importunate street beggars who die of starvation—they know well where to turn for a meal—but the sensitive victim of want of work or misfortune, whose distress can only be discovered at the right time by careful organisation and diligent visiting from house to house. The Charity agents are authorised to give bread in cases of apparent hunger, while it is obvious that the members of district committees who devote their time to this work must be specially qualified to judge of the circumstances of each applicant and of the sources of relief open to him. Full information regarding any case will be afforded on personal application at the offices, while, in the event of any subscriber forwarding a beggar's name and address to the Charity agent, a report of the result of the inquiry, if requested, will be duly communicated; so that the subscriber will have the power of himself assisting the case if he thinks that it has not been properly dealt with.

THE IRISH PAPERS AND THE FENIAN AMNESTY.—The "National" papers express no gratitude for the release of the political prisoners. Few persons were sanguine enough to expect that they would. It is not their mission to make the Irish people contented under British rule, and to promote cordial relations between the two branches of the kingdom. Accordingly they disparage the concession which has been made, and sneer at the Royal clemency. They agree in charging Mr. Gladstone with a breach of faith, and alleging that he promised an unconditional pardon as soon as the state of the country permitted him to grant it. The *Irishman* says that he has given "exile, not amnesty." The *Flag of Ireland* remarks that:—"The precious amnesty extends only to those convicted for treason or treason-felony; but this would not appear to include the brave soldier convicts, nor the few stout-hearted fellows convicted for the rescue of Colonel Kelly, of Manchester." The *Nation*, in more temperate language than the rest, and the *Weekly News*, in terms quite as strong as any of them, complain of the conditions accompanying the release, and contend that the Premier has missed an opportunity of making the Irish people permanent friends. The *Irishman* in its article takes the letter of Mr. Gladstone as affording another argument in favour of an "Irish Constitutional Government." All the national papers join in recommending that a subscription be raised to supply funds for the wants of the liberated prisoners.

MELANCHOLY ICE ACCIDENT IN BERKSHIRE.—A most melancholy catastrophe happened in Berkshire on Saturday. Mr. John Walter, M.P., of Bearwood, near Wokingham, Berks, accompanied by his eldest son and other members of the family, and by Captain Elward Walter, his lady, and family, went to Bearwood Lake for an afternoon's recreation on the ice. About a quarter past three o'clock, while all were enjoying themselves, the ice gave way near the island, and Mr. John Walter, jun., and Masters Tom Walter, Francis Walter, Henry Walter, and Richard, the son of Capt. Walter, were all immersed. The lake, which covers a space of about eighty acres, was at this spot thirty feet deep. Mr. Arthur Walter, James Rackley, the boat-keeper, and others, at once hastened to the rescue, while Mr. John Walter, jun., nobly endeavoured to keep his immersed brothers and cousin from sinking. The ice, however, continually broke under their grasp, and the hole became wider. Eventually four of the party were rescued, and there is no doubt that the saving of the lives of three out of the four is due to the heroic exertions of Mr. John Walter, jun. He was last seen endeavouring to lift and throw the youngest of the party towards the margin of the ice, where assistance was at hand, when he suddenly sank, probably from sheer exhaustion. His body was not recovered until nearly seven o'clock, when life was extinct. The deceased was a young man of great promise, and had only on Monday returned, by way of New York and San Francisco, from a long course of Eastern travel. The melancholy event has cast quite a gloom over the neighbourhood, and much sympathy is felt for the bereavement Mr. Walter and his family have sustained.

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT HATFIELD.—On Boxing Day, the 4.25 train left King's-cross at the usual time. It consisted of six passenger carriages and two break-vans, one at the end, one next to the engine—just enough, in fact, to give steadiness, and not enough to affect the uniformity of speed. It ran through from London to Hatfield without stopping; and was not proceeding at any excessive speed. Everything went on prosperously till within two miles of Hatfield. Suddenly, the engine-driver felt a jolt, and, looking round, discovered that the coupling-irons connecting the tender with the foremost break-van had snapped, and that the three first carriages were upset and thrown across the line. With great presence of mind, he contrived to stop a coal train working its way up to London, close to the spot where the stoppage had occurred. But for this precaution the calamity might have been even more terrible. As it was, six persons had been killed by the shock; and their bodies were so crushed by the violence with which they had been thrown upon

the ground that great difficulty was found in establishing their identity. By a strange combination of ill-luck, the break-down had occurred nearly opposite a signal station. Just at the moment the carriages flew off the track, the wife and sister of the signalman were walking beside the line, on their way to the station. They were knocked down by the fall of the carriages, and killed, apparently, upon the spot; their bodies being found some hours afterwards buried beneath the *débris* of the broken cars. Indeed, the shock of the disaster was so violent that, in the case of all the victims, death was probably almost instantaneous. The catastrophe was attributable to the fracture of a wheel in one of the break-vans, which, having flown into seven pieces, let down the axle on the permanent way, and after tearing up the line for a short distance, ultimately fell over and threw off two second-class carriages. Two of the eight persons who were killed have not yet been identified.

THE CONSERVATIVE SLANDER AGAINST MR. BRIGHT.—At a meeting in Edinburgh, on Thursday evening, Mr. M'Laren (who is brother-in-law of Mr. Bright) said: Talking of the Government, and of the rumours which have been abroad, I may refer to the alleged difference of opinion in the Cabinet about these war matters, which some suppose have had much influence in leading to the resignation of one of its most distinguished members, Mr. Bright. (Applause.) I am satisfied that there is not one shadow of truth in these rumours. I believe that the state of his health alone was the cause of Mr. Bright's resignation. I know he has always spoken with respect of the kindness of his colleagues, and of his willing co-operation with them. But, as is well known, his desire at the first to keep out of the Government was very strong; and I believe he was just as anxious to get out of it as he was opposed to getting into it, but only for the reason which I have stated. To get rid of the responsibilities of office will no doubt be very conducive to his health. Having quoted a paragraph, which stated that Mr. Bright had only remained ten days in office longer than the period which entitled him to a pension, Mr. M'Laren proceeded to say: In regard to the charge that Mr. Bright stopped in office for two years and ten days for the purpose of getting a pension of 2,000*l.*, I may remark that the Cabinet of which he was a member carried through a bill last session which provided that no Minister could get a pension until he had been four years in office. (applause.) That was not all. You are aware that the Secretaries of State and the First Lord of the Treasury get 5,000*l.* of salary; but in the case of those like the President of the Board of Trade, whose salaries are 2,000*l.* or thereby, it was provided that they should serve six years before a pension became due. Mr. Bright was a party to that act—(applause)—which also provided that the Cabinet Ministers with 5,000*l.* of salary might get retiring pensions of 2,000*l.*, but that the President of the Board of Trade and others holding offices of that extent should only get 1,200*l.*, even after serving six years. I think you will be obliged to me for giving this explanation. (Applause.) I know that Mr. Bright has many warm friends in this city; and I thought it my duty to expose the vile slander which has been circulated in regard to him. (Applause.) Even if there had not been such barriers in the way as I have mentioned, it was a very unlikely thing, indeed, that Mr. Bright would accept any pension whatever. I am sure, however, that were he in want of money from the public, and were he treated according to his deserts, he would get, and would deserve, 5,000*l.* as readily and as thoroughly as any Lord Chancellor who has been pensioned in past or present times. (Applause.)

Gleanings.

Falmouth has been visited by a destructive fire. The damage is estimated at £20,000.

The Bolton magistrates on Saturday fined a baker named James Core £5 for adulterating his bread with alum.

Professor Eaton has discovered that this globe will only support life 26,000,000 years. We should like to know how he made the discovery?

In Alabama a judge was too drunk to sit on the bench, so the sheriff put him in gaol for contempt of court.

A man in Illinois lately did a "good stroke" of business by selling his boots for four dollars and stealing them the same night.

On a late occasion, when a Montana judge became pathetic in pronouncing sentence, the culprit interrupted him with—"Never mind the obituary, let's fix the time for the funeral."

"Uncle, are cannibals people that live on other folk?" "Yes, my dear." "Then, uncle George, you must be a cannibal, for ma says you're always living on somebody."

An old fellow went to dine at a chop-house, and after waiting some few minutes, gruffly asked the waiter, "How long will my chop be?" "About five inches, sir," was the reply.

A New York quack, calling himself Reuben Bell, recommended a quack nostrum known as "Dyspeptic Cordial," which, as he says, cured himself of the rheumatism, his wife of the sick headache, his daughter of the fever and ague, and his mother of a bad cough, besides mending the cellar stairs, and putting the baby to sleep!

In Massachusetts, they open court, at the beginning of a term, with prayer. In Worcester, recently, an earnest supplication was made by a distinguished divine, closing with asking blessings upon the judge's wife and children; that they might be spared in life and in health during his absence, and that, at the close of the term, he might be once more restored to the bosom of his family. As the presiding judge was a bachelor, his feelings during the service may be imagined.

SHAM SOVEREIGNS.—The persons in America who advertised to sell sham sovereigns which could not be detected have been arrested. There was no apprehension of our being inundated with base coin. The wiseacres who were foolish enough to send out orders and remittances received in return boxes of sawdust.

DOING THE LANDLORD.—A sharp man stopped at a Boston hotel and had supper and lodging, agreeing to kill all the rats on the premises to pay for his entertainment. In the morning the landlord asked him to go in and kill the rats, when the guest asked for an axe, after obtaining which he said, "Fetch on your rats, Mr. Landlord." He hadn't agreed to catch the rats.

CATCHING A TARTAR.—An old lady recently was brought before a bench of magistrates, and when asked to take off her bonnet, obstinately refused to do so, saying, "There's no law compelling a woman to take off her bonnet." "Oh," imprudently replied one of the magistrates, "you know the law, do you? Perhaps you would like to come up and sit here and teach us?" "No, I thank you, sir," said the woman, tartly, "there are old women enough there now."

A BLIND GIRL'S PRESENT TO THE PRINCESS LOUISE.—The shawl which has been worked by a blind girl in Edinburgh for the Princess Louise, as a present in view of her approaching marriage, is now being exhibited in the saloon of the Asylum for the blind in Edinburgh. It is wrought of Berlin wool, of a beautiful pattern, and has a white centre with three deep borders—one of green, one of scarlet, and another of green—and a white fringe. In each of the borders there are seven shades, and it is truly wonderful to see how beautifully they blend and harmonise together.—*Courant.*

THE BOAR'S HEAD AT OXFORD.—The ancient ceremony of serving up a boar's head in the hall of Queen's College, Oxford, at Christmas, was observed with the usual pomp on Monday, when the public were admitted in large numbers to witness the interesting event. The boar's head was borne on the shoulders of two of the college servants, preceded by the Provost and Fellows of the society, and followed by a procession of choristers and singing men, who sang the following ballad most effectively, the Rev. T. Rennison, Precentor of Queen's, taking the solo part:—

"The boar's head in hand bring I,
Bedecked with bays and rosemary,
And I pray you my masters be merry.
Quot estis in convivio,
Caput estis in convivio,
Reddens laudes Domino.

The boar's head, as I understand,
Is the rarest dish in all the land;
Which thus bedecked with a gay garland,
Let us servire cantico
Caput apri defero
Reddens laudes Domino.

Our stewards hath provided this
In honour of the King of Bliss,
Which on this day to be served is
In Reginensi Atrio,
Caput afri defero,
Reddens laudes Domino."

After the ceremony, the decorations of bays, rosemary, holly, and artificial flowers, &c., were distributed among the visitors, and the monster head was placed upon the high table, and the members of the society proceeded to dine. The origin of serving up the boar's head at Queen's College is somewhat obscure, but we glean from Pointer's *Oxoniensis Academia* that "it is in memory of a noble exploit, as tradition goes, by a scholar (a tabarder) of this College in killing a wild boar in Shotover wood." Having wandered into the wood, which is not far from Oxford, with a copy of *Aristotle* in his hand, and being attacked by a wild boar, who came at him with extended jaws, intending to make but a mouthful of him, he was enabled to conquer him by thrusting the *Aristotle* down the boar's throat, crying "*Græcum est!*" The animal, of course, fell prostrate at his feet, was carried in triumph to the College, and no doubt served up with an "old song," as Mr. Pointer says, in memory of this "noble exploit."—*Times.*

NOTICE.—*All announcements intended for this column must be accompanied by a remittance of half-a-crown in postage-stamps.*

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

BIRTH.

STACY.—Dec. 24, at 11, Amhurst-road East, Hackney, E., Mrs. Jonathan Sargeant Stacy, of a daughter.

DEATH.

SPICER.—Dec 25, after three hours' illness, Samuel, fourth son of William Revell Spicer, of 12, Highbury-place, and 13, New Bridge-street, aged 28.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—English winters are deleterious inasmuch as the sudden changes, frequent fogs, and prevailing dampness, surely impede the vital functions and conduct to ill-health. The remedy for this disaster lies in some purifying medicine, like these pills, which are competent to grapple with the mischief at its source, and stamp it out without fretting the nerves or weakening the system. Holloway's pills extract from the blood all noxious matters regulate the action of every disordered organ, stimulate the liver and kidneys and relax the bowels. In curing chest complaints these pills are remarkably effective especially when aided by friction of the ointment on its walls; this double treatment will ensure a certain, steady, and beneficient progress.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Wednesday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Dec. 21.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£37,009,015	Government Debt	£11,015,100
		Other Securities	3,984,900
		Gold Coin & Bullion	22,009,015
	£37,009,215		£37,009,215

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

Proprietors' Capital	£14,553,000	Government Securities (inc. dead weight annuity)	£12,935,853
Rest	3,081,940		
Public Deposits...	7,419,921		
Other Deposits	17,815,285	Other Securities	15,876,568
Seven Day and other Bills	800,177	Notes	14,052,440
		Gold & Silver Coin	815,462
	£43,670,323		£43,670,323

Dec 22, 1870 GEO. FORBES, Chief Cash

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, MARK LANE, Monday, Dec 23.

The supply of English wheat for this morning's market was short, and mostly in poor condition. Arrivals from abroad are moderate. Sales of English wheat progressed slowly, at a decline of 1s. to 2s per qr. from the prices of Monday last. Flour sold at 1s. per sack and 6d per brl. decline. Peas, beans, and Indian corn were unchanged in value. Malting barley gave way 1s., and grinding barley 6d., in value. Of oats we have but the cold weather has increased the demand, and prices are 6d. per qr. above the rates of Monday. At the ports of call arrivals are large. Cargoes of fine quality meet demand and maintain their value.

CURRENT PRICES.

	Per Qr. s.	s.		Per Qr. s.	s.
WHEAT—			PEAS—		
Essex and Kent, red	—	to —	Grey	36	to 38
Ditto new	49	51	Maple	41	42
White	—	—	White	36	
,, new	54	56	Boilers	36	
Foreign red	50	53	Foreign, boilers ..	38	
,, white ..	52	56			
BARLEY—			RYE	36	38
English malting ..	31	34	OATS—		
Chevalier	35	42	English feed.. ..	23	23
Distilling	34	38	,, potato ..	27	34
Foreign	33	35	Scotch feed .. .	—	—
MALT—			,, potato ..	—	—
Pale	—	—	Irish black	19	22
Chevalier	—	—	,, white	20	23
Brown	49	54	Foreign feed.. ..	20	23
BEANS—			FLOUR—		
Ticks	38	41	Town made	44	47
Harrow	41	45	Country Marks ..	37	39
Small	—	—	Norfolk & Suffolk	35	36
Egyptian	38	39			

METROPOLITAN CATTLE MARKET, Monday, Dec. 26.—The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 7,795 head. In the corresponding week in 1869 we received 8,588; in 1868, 4,545; in 1867, 2,263; and in 1866, 3,238 head. The cattle trade has been in a quiet state to day. The weather has again been unfavourable, and as butchers have in a great measure already supplied their Christmas wants, business has progressed slowly. About an average supply of beasts has been on sale, in, generally speaking, good condition. The trade has been dull, and the extreme rates for the best Scots did not exceed 5s. 10d. to 6s. per 8lbs. From Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Northamptonshire we received about 350 shorthorns, &c.; from other parts of England 150 various breeds; and from Ireland about 25 oxen. There has been only a moderate supply of sheep in the pens. The inquiry was restricted, and prices were nominally unaltered. The best Downs and half-breds have sold at 6s. 2d. to 6s. 4d. per 8lbs. Calves and pigs were in limited request, at late rates.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3	6	to 4	4	Prime Southdown	6	0	to 6	4
Second quality	4	6	4	10	Lambs .	0	0	0	0
Prime large oxen	5	4	5	8	Lge. coarse calves	3	8	4	4
Prime Scots, &c.	5	10	6	0	Prime small .	5	0	6	2
Coarse inf. sheep	3	6	3	10	Large hogs	4	4	5	2
Second quality	4	0	4	8	Neat-fed porkers	5	6	6	4
Pr coarse woolled	5	2	5	10					

Suckling calves, —s. to —s., and Quarter-old store pigs, 22s. to 26s. each.

METROPOLITAN MEAT MARKET, Monday, Dec. 26.—Moderate supplies of meat have been on sale. The trade has been quiet and prices have been nominal. The imports into London last week consisted of 1,294 bales from Hamburg, 12 Rotterdam, and 79 Harlingen.

Per 8lbs. by the carcase.

	s.	d.	s.	d.		s.	d.	s.	d.
Inferior beef .	3	4	to 3	8	Prime ditto . .	5	0	5	4
Middling ditto .	4	0	4	4	Veal	5	0	5	4
Prime large do. .	4	6	4	10	Large pork . .	3	4	4	8
Do. small do .	5	0	5	4	Small pork . .	3	4	4	8
Inf. mutton . .	3	8	4	4	Lamb	0	0	0	0
Middling ditto .	4	6	4	10					

PROVISIONS, Friday, Dec. 23.—In the butter market there is little or no change to notice this week, either in Irish or foreign. Best Dutch, 136s. to 140s. The bacon market has ruled slow. Best Waterford sizeable 70s. free on board.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET, Saturday, Dec 24.—Under the influence of approaching Christmas business has slightly improved, but no marked alteration in price has taken place. Good dessert pears and apples are abundant, and embrace all the usual varieties. Grapes and pines are sufficient for the demand. Seakale is now coming very good. Cucumbers are scarce. Amongst flowers we have Orchids, Chrysanthemums, Heaths, Cyclamens, Primulas, Hyacinths, Tulips, Camellias, and Pelargoniums, and a large supply of dwarf evergreens and "Christmas trees."

OROUGH HOP MARKET, Monday, Dec. 23.—As usual at this period of the year, business is limited; our market, however, is strong and prices firm. No new feature is visible in our foreign market. Imports up to the present amount to 15,788 bales. The New York market is reported as dull, and prices, under the influence of heavy arrivals, a shade lower. Mid. and East Kents, 1*l.* 15s., 3*l.* 10s. to 7*l.* 0s.; Wealds, 1*l.* 15s., 3*l.* 0s., to 3*l.* 15s.; Sussex, 1*l.* 10s., 2*l.* 6s. to 3*l.* 10s.; Farnham and country, 3*l.* 15s., 4*l.* 15s., to 6*l.* 6s.; Olds, 1*l.* 0s., 1*l.* 15s., to 2*l.* 10s.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS.—Monday, Dec. 26.—These markets have been only moderately supplied with potatoes. The trade has not been active, at our quotations. The import into London last week consisted of 6 of 6 bales from Amsterdam and 32 bags from Rotterdam. English Regents, 60s. to 90s. per ton: Scotch Regents, 60s. to 85s. per ton; Rocks, 60s. to 70s. per ton.

SEED, Friday, Dec. 23.—Owing to the very wintry state of the weather, not much was passing in cloverseed, and there was no change to quote in any description. Fine American samples of red are inquired after for future delivery, and such sorts were held with much firmness. The best qualities of trefoil were held for more money, and fine qualities are required. Brown and white mustardseed were held on former terms, but little passing in either sort. Good English canaryseed and large Dutch hempseed was quite as dear. Foreign tares were offered on former terms.

WOOL, Monday, Dec. 26.—In the English Wool Market not much business has been doing. The tone however, has been firm, and prices have been maintained.

OIL, Saturday, Dec. 24 For Linseed oil the market has been quiet, at about late rates. Rape has been firm. Other oils have been in moderate request.

TALLOW, Friday, Dec. 23.—The market has been quiet. Town Tallow, 46s 6d per cwt. Rough Fat 2s 2d. per 8lbs. Melted stuff, 32s. per cwt Rough stuff, 16s. per cwt. Graves, 19s per cwt. Good Dregs, 6s. per cwt. Yellow Russian, 47s. per cwt.

COAL, Friday, Dec. 23.—Wallsend Hetton, 19s; Wallsend Hawell, 19s.; Wallsend Kelloe, 17s. 6d.; Wallsend Hartlepool, 18s.; Wallsend Hough Hall, 18s.; Wallsend Harton, 18s.; Wallsend Tees, 18s. 9d. Ships at market, 156; sold, 148.

Advertisements.

THE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ACT.

CENTRAL NONCONFORMIST COMMITTEE,
86, NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.

Just published,

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.

Information and advice may be obtained by applications addressed to the "Secretary," at the office of the Committee.

WANTED, a TEACHER for a SCHOOL in the NORTH of LONDON, under Government Inspection.—Applications, with testimonial, to be addressed to R. Sinclair, Esq., 80, Wood-street, E.C.

RESIDENT GOVERNESS WANTED must be a Dissenter, capable of giving instruction in French German, Music, and a thorough English education, to four young ladies from fourteen to six years of age.—State terms and references to Westmere, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

A MINISTER'S DAUGHTER, who has resided in Germany, WISHES to MEET with an ADVANCED PUPIL, whom she could instruct in German, French, Music, &c. All the advantages of a comfortable home and healthy neighbourhood are offered. Fifteen miles from town.—Address, A. Z., Mr. Steele, Stationer, Spring-gardens, Charing-cross.

COOK'S EASTERN TOURS.—REVISED PROGRAMMES of THREE PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOURS to Egypt, the NILE, PALESTINE, &c., showing departures from London, January 14, February 4 and 18, 1871, for various Tours of 40 to 104 days, Routes, Fares, &c; also of independent arrangements for parties of four and upwards, going at any time, may be had gratuitously, or by post for a penny stamp, at COOK'S TOURIST OFFICE, 98, Fleet-street, E.C. Winter Programmes of Through Tickets, by the Brenner and all other Alpine Routes to all parts of Italy and the East; also to Belgium, Holland, Germany, Switzerland, &c. A Pamphlet of 28 pages, price 2d.; by post, 3d.; also to be had at 98, Fleet-street.

THOMAS COOPER'S ENGAGEMENTS for the Year 1871.

JANUARY	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Hull. 7, 8, 9, 10, Pocklington, Yorkshire. 11, 12, 13, Hull. 14, 15, 16, 17, Market Weighton, Yorkshire. 18, 19, 20, Hull. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Leeds.
FEBRUARY	1, 2, 3, Leeds. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Bradford, Yorkshire. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 Halifax, Yorkshire. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Manchester.
MARCH	1, 2, 3, Manchester. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Ashton-under-Lyne, near Manchester. 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Huddersfield, Yorkshire. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Ossett, near Wakefield 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Wakefield, Yorkshire.
APRIL	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Morley, near Leeds. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, Gildersome, near Leeds. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Pudsey, near Leeds. 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Stanningley, near Leeds. 29, 30, Knaresb rough.
MAY	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Knaresborough, Yorkshire. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Harrogate, Yorkshire. 13, 14 15; 16, 17, 18, 19, Ripon, Yorkshire. 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, Stockton-on-Tees. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Crosby-Garrett, near Penrith, Cumberland.
JUNE	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Crosby-Garrett, near Penrith, Cumberland. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, Kirkby-Stephen, Westmoreland. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Sedbergh, Yorkshire. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, Kirkby-Lonsdale, Westmoreland. 28, 29, 30, Barrow-in-Furness.
JULY	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Barrow-in-Furness. 6, 7 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Settle, Yorkshire. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Sabden, near Blackburn, Lancashire. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, Keighley, Yorkshire. 29, 30, 31 Hebden-Bridge, Yorkshire.
AUGUST	1, 2, 3, 4, Hebden-Bridge, Yorkshire. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, Sowerby-Bridge, Yorkshire. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, Houghton-le-Spring, Fence Houses, Durham. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, Chester-le-Street, Fence Houses, Durham. 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Willington Quay, Northumberland.
SEPTEMBER	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Segbill, Northumberland. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Backworth, Northumberland. 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, Jarrow-on-Tyne. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, South Shields.
OCTOBER	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, North Shields. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, Sunderland. 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, Durham. 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 28, 29, 30, 31, Gateshead, near Newcastle-on-Tyne.
NOVEMBER	1, 2, 3, Gateshead, near Newcastle-on-Tyne. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Darlington 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, Saltaire, near Leeds. 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24. Shipley, near Leeds. 25, 26. 27, 28, 29, 30, Heckmondwike, near Leeds.
DECEMBER	1, Heckmondwike. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, Holmfirth, near Huddersfield. 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, Kirkburton, near Huddersfield 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Denby Dale, near Huddersfield 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, Sheffield.

☞ Letters to be addressed, "THOMAS COOPER, Lecturer on Christianity," at the town to which I am appointed, as "Bradford, Yorkshire," "Durham," "Jarrow-on-Tyne," &c.

*** Correspondents are requested NOT to put "Post Office" on their letters to me. T. C.

MR. STREETER (Successor to
HANCOCK and CO., Limited),
GOLDSMITH and JEWELLER,
WATCH and CLOCK-MAKER
TO the ROYAL FAMILY,
37, CONDUIT-STREET,
BOND STREET, LONDON, W.,
INTRODUCER of the CELEBRATED
18-CARAT GOLD JEWELLERY, also
WATCHES and CLOCKS,
MACHINE-MADE.

BRACELETS, STRAP, 18-CARAT	£5	0
BRACELETS, ETRUSCAN, „	£7	0
BRACELETS, NINEVEH, „	£10	0
BRACELETS, SAXON, „	£15	0
BROOCHES, ETRUSCAN, „	£2	10
BROOCHES, NINEVEH, „	£3	0
BROOCHES, SAXON, „	£4	0
BROOCHES, EGYPTIAN, „	£5	0
CHAINS, PRINCESS, „	£2	0
CHAINS, CYLINDER, „	£3	0
CHAINS, CURB, „	£4	0
CHAINS, CABLE, „	£5	0
EARRINGS, ETRUSCAN, „	£1	10
EARRINGS, SAXON, „	£2	5
EARRINGS, EGYPTIAN, „	£3	5
EARRINGS, NINEVEH, „	£4	10
LOCKETS, ENGRAVED, „	£1	0
LOCKETS, CORDED, „	£2	10
LOCKETS, CROSS, „	£4	0
GOLD WATCHES, LADIES',	£8	8
GOLD WATCHES, „	£10	10
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£15	15
GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£11	11
GOLD WATCHES, ¾-PLATE,	£16	16
GOLD WATCHES, „	£20	0
GOLD WATCHES, KEYLESS	£15	10
GOLD WATCHES, „	£22	0
GOLD WATCHES (HUNTING),	£18	18
CLOCKS, CARRIAGE,	£5	0
CLOCKS, „ (STRIKING),	£7	7
CLOCKS, „ „ (ON GONG),	£12	12
CLOCKS, LIBRARY (MARBLE),	£4	0
CLOCKS, „ „	£10	12
CLOCKS, „ „	£14	0
CLOCKS, „ (ORMOLU),	£10	0
CLOCKS, „ „	£15	0

THE ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE,
BOUND in CLOTH,
POST FREE for TWO STAMPS, only of
MR. STREETER, 37, CONDUIT-STREET,
5 DOORS from BOND-STREET, LONDON,
SUCCESSOR to HANCOCK & COMPY. LIMITED

PALESTINE, Greece, Asia Minor, Turkey, EGYPT. Mr H. GAZE, originator and first conductor of Tours to the East, will START ERE. 6 with his FOURTH PARTY to the above-named countries.—Particulars of Mr. Gaze personally, at his Office, 163, Strand, London; or full prospectus 2d.

BRITISH EMPIRE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, 82, NEW BRIDGE-STREET, LONDON, E.C.

(Empowered by Special Act of Parliament.)

DIRECTORS.

Robert J. Millar, Esq., Chairman.

Daniel Pratt, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

Benham, Augustus, Esq.	Lewis, George C., Esq.
Bunnell, Peter, Esq.	Runtz, John, Esq.
Burton, John R., Esq.	Sanders, Joseph, Esq.
Grover, William, Esq	Starling, Robert S., Esq.
Howat, John S., Esq.	Wills, Fred., jun., Esq.

SOLICITORS—Messrs. Watson and Sons.

PHYSICIAN—E. Headlam Greenhow, M.D., F.R.S.

SURGEON—John Mann, Esq.

ACTUARY AND ACCOUNTANT—Josiah Martin, Esq., F.I.A.

Established in 1847.

Profits all belong to the Members, and are apportioned every three years.

Cash Bonus of 22½ per cent. just declared.

Accumulated Fund is equal to six years of the nett premiums.

Last Report and Balance Sheet to be obtained from

ALFRED LENCH SAUL, Secretary

Money advanced on Freehold and other good securities.

THE LONDON AND GENERAL PERMANENT LAND, BUILDING, AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

Shares, £40. Monthly Subscription, 5s. Entrance Fee, 1s. per Share.

337, STRAND, W.C.

TRUSTEES.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Lichfield
Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.
The Hon. H. F. Cowper, M.P.

CHAIRMAN OF DIRECTORS

Thomas Hughes, Esq., Q.C., M.P.

Large or small sums received on deposit, repayable at short notice. Five per Cent. Interest Guaranteed. Shares may be taken at any time—no back payments.

Money ready to be advanced on Freehold or Leasehold Security.

The Last Annual Report states that 7½ PER CENT. PROFIT has been again apportioned to Shareholders, besides carrying a large addition to the Reserve Fund.

W. R. SELWAY, Managing Director.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—The Classes will recommence on MONDAY, January 2nd, 1871.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS AND FACULTY OF SCIENCE.—The Lent Term will commence on TUESDAY, January 3rd, 1871.

The SCHOOLS for BOYS between the ages of Seven and Sixteen.—The Lent Term will begin on TUESDAY, January 17, 1871.

The EVENING CLASSES for Classics, Modern Languages, Mathematics, &c.—The Lent Term will commence on MONDAY, January 9th, 1871.

Prospectuses of the various Departments of the College may be obtained at the Office of the College on application, either personally or by letter.

The College is close to the Gower-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, and only a few minutes' walk from the Termini of the North Western, Midland, and Great Northern Railways. JOHN BOBSON, B.A., Secretary to the Council.

INDEPENDENT COLLEGE, TAUNTON, Affiliated by Royal Charter to London University, 1869.

PRINCIPAL—Rev. W. H. GRIFFITH, M.A. (London U.)

The success of this Establishment during the past twenty-three years has led to the erection of a new building, making provision for an increased number of Pupils, and arranged with special regard for their health and comfort.

Pupils are prepared for matriculation at London University, and also for Professional and Commercial Pursuits. Careful attention is paid to the Religious training.

Terms according to age, 28, 30, or 36 guineas per annum.

For particulars, apply to the Principal, or to the Secretary, Mr. ARTHUR CLAYDEN.

NORTHERN CONGREGATIONAL SCHOOL, SILCOATES HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.

PRINCIPAL—

The Rev. JAMES BEWGLASS, M.A., LL.D., M.R.I.A.

The above School receives, in addition to the sons of ministers, a limited number of the sons of laymen, who are carefully instructed in all the branches of a sound classical, mathematical, and commercial education, and are prepared for any department of business, or for entrance at the Universities.

The School will RE-OPEN, after the Christmas vacation, on TUESDAY, the 17th January, 1871.

Application for the admission of Pupils to be addressed to the Principal.

CLASSICAL and COMMERCIAL ACADEMY, BRAINTREE, ESSEX

Conducted by Rev. W. MILNE, M.A., and Sons.

Terms—From 30 to 40 Guineas.

Reference permitted to Congregational Ministers in London and the country, and to the Parents of Pupils.

SCHOOL will REOPEN on the 20th JANUARY, 1871.

WILTON LODGE, TAUNTON.—Select ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES. Conducted by the Misses GRIFFITH, daughters of the Rev. W. H. Griffith, M.A., Principal of Taunton Proprietary School.

The DUTIES of this Establishment will be RESUMED on FRIDAY, January 27th.

For Prospectuses, address Wilton Lodge, Taunton.

VICTORIA VILLA, FINCHLEY, N.

ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES, Conducted by MRS. WASHINGTON WILKS. The course of instruction embraces the usual branches of a thorough English education, with the French and German Languages; also Piano, Singing, and Drawing taught by competent Masters.

OZOKERIT (PATENTED). OZOKERIT.

THE NEW AND BEAUTIFUL CANDLES

Made of this mineral will be found to far surpass any that have yet been introduced, possessing marvellous brilliancy of light, and burning to the end without bending, though placed in the hottest and most crowded rooms. They resemble in appearance the very whitest bleached bees-wax, also in odour, whence the name, from the Greek *Ozo*, I smell of, and *Keros*, wax. They will be found a great boon and ornament to all ASSEMBLY and BALL ROOMS, the intense heat and injury caused by the use of gas to gilding and pictures being avoided by their use. Their great hardness adapts them for all climates. To be had in all sizes, 1s. 3d. per lb

Order of your Chemist, Grocer, or Chandler, and insist on using no others. The Patentees, J. C and J FIELD Upper Marsh, Lambeth, London, who supply the Trade only, will be happy to answer any inquiry as to the nearest agency where these wonderful candles can be obtained.

ENTIRE WHEAT FLOUR (Chapman's Patent Prepared)
FOR INFANTS.
Is recommended by the Faculty as the best food for INFANTS, as it is very easy of digestion, and contains in due proportion all the substances required for healthy growth.

ENTIRE WHEAT FLOUR (Chapman's Patent Prepared)
FOR CHILDREN.
Is acknowledged to be the most wholesome and nutritious diet for CHILDREN, its richness in earthy phosphates ensuring healthy development of the teeth and bony frame.

ENTIRE WHEAT FLOUR (Chapman's Patent Prepared)
FOR INVALIDS.
The continued use of the Flour is very efficacious in restoring strength after illness of all kinds, and is most beneficial to sufferers from dyspepsia and liver complaint.

ENTIRE WHEAT FLOUR (Chapman's Patent Prepared)

Sold retail by Chemists, &c., in 3d., 6d., and 1s. packets, and 3s. tins.

SOLE PROPRIETORS, **Orlando Jones and Co.**, 18, BILLITER ST., LONDON.

INVENTORS AND PATENTEES OF **Rice Starch**, THE STRONGEST AND PUREST MADE.

NEW COLLEGE, LONDON.—The CLASSES MEET again after the Christmas recess on WEDNESDAY, January 4, 1871. The fees and—in most of the classes—the subjects, are so arranged that lay students can conveniently enter at this period of the session.

January 9 and 10 Dr. LANKESTER, F.R.S., will begin course of Lectures on Chemistry, and another on Physiology with special reference to the Matriculation and B.A. Examinations in the University of London.

The Sessional Syllabus and all other necessary information may be obtained on application to the Secretary, at the College, Finchley New-road, N.W.

W. FARRER, LL.B., Secretary.

NONCONFORMIST GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD.

Head Master.—Rev R. ALLIOTT, B.A., Trin. Coll., Camb.

Assistant Master.—H. C. KINGSWELL, Esq., B.A., Caius Coll., Camb.; H. RANDALL, Esq.; F. A. JONES, Esq.

Resident German Master.—C. F. H. HENNINGER, Esq.

Music and French.—LOUIS BING, Esq, F.S.A.

The NEXT TERM commences JAN. 20, 1871.

For Prospectuses, &c., apply to the Rev. Head Master, or Mr. A. BOARDMAN, Local Secretary, East of England Nonconformist School Company, Limited

TUDOR HALL LADIES' COLLEGE, FOREST HILL, SYDENHAM.

PROFESSORS.

English Literature	Mrs. C. L. BALFOUR.
Botany	Prof BENTLEY, King's Coll
Globes and Natural Science	Messrs WALKER & WILLIAMS.
Music, Theory, &c.	JOHN BLOCKLEY, Esq.
Harmonium, &c.	Herr LOUIS DIEHL.
Singing and Organ	JAMES OWARD, Esq.
Drawing and Painting	R. W. BUSS Esq.
Geology and Biblical Studies	Rev. J. W TODD.
French Language	Dr. MANDROU.
German Language	Herr GERNER.

Referees—Parents of Pupils and Clergymen

For Particulars, address the Principal, Mrs. TODD.

BRIGHTON.—ENFIELD HOUSE, CLIFTONVILLE.

Mrs. JOHN EYRE ASHBY, widow of the late Dr. Ashby, of Enfield, assisted by a resident French and English Governess and competent visiting Masters, RECEIVES YOUNG LADIES to EDUCATE with her own Daughter. Mrs. Ashby aims to combine the comforts of a home with the advantages of school regularity and discipline.

The House is situated in one of the most healthy parts of Brighton, commanding a view of the sea, and every facility for bathing is afforded

References and terms forwarded on application.

STROUD LADIES' COLLEGE, BEECHES-GREEN, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Principals—The Misses HOWARD.

Resident English, French, and German Governesses.

Attendant Professors.

Reports monthly. Test Examinations every term.

This College educates Daughters of Gentlemen and Professional Men.

The house is large, airy, and well situated, and has an ample lawn for out-of-door recreation.

The Misses Howard aim to secure for their Pupils a sound literary and intellectual culture, refined manners, together with a healthy Christian and moral training.

Prospectus, with references and copies of Examination Papers, on application.

FIRST TERM, 1871, will commence THURSDAY, January 26.

HEATHFIELD, STONYGATE, LEICESTER.

EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LADIES

CONDUCTED BY THE MISSES MIALL.

MASTERS.

French and Italian	Mons. C. C. Caillard.
German	Mdlle. Hottinger.
Music and Singing	J. Saville Stone, Esq., Associate, Royal Academy.
Drawing and Painting	J. Hoch, Esq.
Dancing and Calisthenics	Mdlle. L'Anglée.
Chemistry	Dr. Albert J. Bernays, Professor of Chemistry a St. Thomas's Hospita London.
Arithmetic	Mr. J. Hopworth.

The above branches of education are taught exclusively by the Masters assigned to them. The general English education is under the immediate direction of the Principals and a competent staff of Governesses.

Terms forwarded on application.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC. — Novel and bona fide character of the CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENTS. PROFESSOR PEPPER ON THE WAR AND THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPLEMENTS USED THEREAT! MR. GEORGE GROSSMITH, Jun., gives the prettiest Fairy Tale, entitled THE YELLOW DWARF, every Evening; and Mr. SUCHET CHAMPION the same in the Mornings, with vocal Illustrations. Engagement of the Original Warlock, Mr. J. BEAUMONT, for THE WORLD OF MAGIC, and his Curious Black Rope Automation.—Entertainment by Mr E. D. DAVIES, Premier Ventriloquist, entitled THE FUNNIEST of FUNNY FOLKS! MADAME BOUSFIELD'S GRECIAN STATUARY in White Marble—The PRAEGER FAMILY—New Ghost Entertainment—A Machine-made Watch, and Christmas and Christmas Customs, by J. L. KING, Esq., at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC Admission to the whole, One Shilling.

LONDON.—SHIRLEY'S TEMPERANCE HOTEL, 37, Queen's-square, Bloomsbury, W.C. Beds from 1s 6d. Plain Breakfast or Tea, 1s. 3d.

See Testimonials, of which there are a thousand in the Visitors' Book.

"We are more than satisfied; we are truly delighted to find in London so quiet and comfortable a domicile. We shall certainly highly recommend Shirley's to all our friends."—ROBERTS, Bourne.

"As on all previous visits, I can testify that this is the most comfortable home I find when away from home."—W. B. HARVEY, Frome.

"After visiting various places in England, I have come to consider Shirley's (in view of its combining the greatest comfort and respectability, with the most moderate charges) as the Temperance Hotel *par excellence*."—J. K. KARCHES, Toronto, C.W.

KERSHAW'S FAMILY and PRIVATE HOTEL, 14, Charter House-square, Aldersgate-street, London.

Visitors to London will meet with a comfortable home at the above Establishment, which is pleasantly and centrally situated within five minutes' walk of the General Post Office and one minute from the Aldersgate-street station of the Metropolitan Railway.

Terms 5s per day, including Bed, Breakfast, Tea, and attendance. Private Sitting Rooms.

MR. COOKE BAINES, SURVEYOR AND COMPENSATION VALUER.
106, Cheapside, E.C.

Every information supplied as to the various Metropolitan improvements.

Claims against Railway and other Public Companies prepared and arranged.

ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF PROPERTY VALUED FOR PROBATE, &c.

Money obtained on Freehold or Leasehold Securities.

MONEY.—LOANS Granted, from £100 to £2,000, at 5 per cent, repayable over three years, on Personal Security and Life Policy effected with the WEST of ENGLAND INSURANCE Co. (Established 1807).—Apply to J. CROCKER, Agency Superintendent. GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE Agents wanted

CHEAP CHURCH and SCHOOL STOVE.

The PATENT VENTILATING STOVE, as a Close Stove, will be found cheap, simple, efficient, and durable It is economical in the consumption of fuel, has been extensively adopted and universally approved. Prices, 50s., 60s., 70s., 90s., and 120s. Prospectus, with engravings, gratis and post free, on application to DEANE and Co, who have it in operation daily. A large stock of Hot-Air Stoves always on sale Gas Stoves with patent burner and requiring no flue, from 50s. Churches, Chapels, and Public Buildings heated by hot water. Estimates furnished.—DEANE and Co., 46, King William-street, London Bridge. Established A.D. 1700.

FRANCIS MORTON and COMPANY, LIMITED, ENGINEERS and GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS. Head Offices and Works, NAYLOR-STREET, LIVERPOOL.

IRON CHURCHES, CHAPELS, SCHOOLHOUSES, &c.,

On a much improved system.

The Architectural and Structural details under the special direction of the Company's Architect.

Prices on application.

HOOPING COUGH.—ROCHE'S HERBAL EMBROCATION is recommended by many of the most eminent of the Faculty as the only known safe and perfect cure, without the use of medicine. Sold by most Chemists in bottles, at 4s. each. Wholesale Agent, Edwards, 38, Old Change (formerly of 67, St. Paul's), London.

SPECIAL TO LADIES.

FOR THE WINTER FASHIONS,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR SILKS—NEW, USEFUL, CHEAP,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR MANTLES—THE LATEST DESIGNS,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR COSTUMES AND SKIRTS IN ALL THE NEWEST MATERIALS,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR HOUSEHOLD LINENS—BEST MAKES,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR FURS—EVERY DESCRIPTION,
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.
FOR FAMILY AND COMPLIMENTARY MOURNING.
JAMES SPENCE AND CO.,
76, 77, and 78, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.

FILMER AND SON'S

VARIOUS NEW AND BEAUTIFUL

FABRICS FOR DRAWING, DINING-ROOM, AND LIBRARY.

CURTAINS AND FURNITURE. Carpets of every description, and Interior Decorations of all kinds. Plans taken and estimates given free of any charge.

31 and 32, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

USE ONLY THE

GLENFIELD STARCH.

THE QUEEN'S LAUNDRESS USES NO OTHER.

CLEAR COMPLEXIONS

for all who use the "United Service" Soap Tablet, which also imparts a delicious fragrance.

MANUFACTURED BY

J. C. and J. FIELD, Patentees of the Self-fitting Candles.

Sold by Chemists, Oil and Italian Warehousemen, and others

*** Use no other. See name on each tablet.

BEEF ESSENCE.

1 lb. equal to 42 lbs. of Butchers' Meat.

Whitehead and Co.'s Beef Extract

is certified by eminent Medical Analysts as pure, most nutritious, and wholesome.

Sold in boxes from 2s. 3d. by all Grocers, Italian Warehousemen, and Chemists, and Wholesale of Copland and Co, Travers and Sons. Preston and Sons, Crosse and Blackwell, and E. Lazenby and Son.

As supplied to the Sick and Wounded.

SAUCE.—LEA AND PERRINS.

THE "WORCESTERSHIRE,"

Pronounced by Connoisseurs, "The only Good Sauce,"
Improves the appetite, and aids digestion.
Unrivalled for piquancy and flavour.

ASK FOR LEA AND PERRINS' SAUCE.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS,
and see the Names of LEA & PERRINS on all bottles and labels.

Agents—CROSSE and BLACKWELL, London, and sold by all Dealers in Sauces throughout the World.

CROSBY'S
BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR.

Opiates, Narcotics, and Squills, are too often invoked to give relief in Coughs, Colds, and all Pulmonary Diseases. Instead of such fallacious remedies, which yield momentary relief at the expense of enfeebling the digestive organs and thus increasing that debility which lies at the root of the malady, modern science points to CROSBY'S BALSAMIC COUGH ELIXIR as the true remedy.

SELECT TESTIMONIAL.

Dr. Rooke, Scarborough, author of the "Anti-Lancet," says:—"I have repeatedly observed how very rapidly and invariably it subdued Cough, Pain, and Irritation of the Chest in cases of Pulmonary Consumption, and I can, with the greatest confidence, recommend it as a most valuable adjunct to an other-wise strengthening treatment for this disease."

This medicine, which is free from opium and squills, not only allays the local irritation, but improves digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence it is used with the most signal success in Asthma Bronchitis, Consumption, Coughs, Influenza, Night Sweats of Consumption, Quinsy, and all affections of the throat and chest. Sold by all respectable Chemists and Patent Medicine Dealers in bottles at 1s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 11s. each; and wholesale by JAS. M. CROSBY, Chemist, Scarborough.

*** Invalids should read Crosby's Prize Treatise on "Diseases of the Lungs and Air-Vessels," a copy of which can be had gratis of all Chemists.

CURATIVE ELECTRICITY.

Invalids, who (from a want of practical knowledge of the application of Electricity and Galvanism) have been disappointed in obtaining a cure from the use of GALVANIC APPARATUS, are invited to communicate directly with Mr. HENRY LOBB, M.R.C.S.E., Surgeon Electrician, from whom may be obtained CURATIVE ELECTRICITY, by post 13 stamps. 1, Sackville-street, Piccadilly, London, W.

KAYE'S WORSDELL'S PILLS.

Invaluable for Families, Emigrants, Colonists, and all who desire a remedy that may be constantly depended on to cure all complaints that arise from defective circulation and inferiority of the blood. No family should be without them.

Sold by all Chemists and other dealers in patent medicines at 1s. 1½d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. per box.

OSLER'S GLASS CHANDELIERS.
TABLE GLASS OF ALL KINDS.
CHANDELIERS IN BRONZE AND ORMOLU
Moderator Lamps, and Lamps for India.
LONDON—Show Rooms, 45, OXFORD-STREET, W.
BIRMINGHAM—Manufactory and Show Rooms, Broad-street

BREAKFAST. — EPPS'S COCOA.
Grateful and Comforting.
Sold only in tin-lined packets, labelled—
JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London.

AN EVENING DRINK.—CACAOINE.
Cacao Nibs on the removal of the oil fall into powder, and this powder is Cacaoine Cacaoine contains neither sugar nor any other admixture whatever. Cacaoine makes one of the lightest, thinnest of warm drinks, and is the most desirable of all for use in the later hours of the day. Cacaoine, by reason of the ingenious method by which the oil is removed, preserves all the fine natural flavour of cacao nibs.
JAMES EPPS and Co., Homœopathic Chemists, London.

COLMAN'S
BRITISH CORN-FLOUR,
PREPARED FROM RICE,
the staple food of more than Three Hundred Millions (300,000,000) of people, is unequalled for Blanc-Mange, Custards, Puddings, Cakes, Soups, &c., and is the most wholesome and easily-digestible Food for Children and Invalids.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes a delicious Blanc-Mange and Baked Pudding.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes nice Infants' Food, and for thickening Milk.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Makes the best Cup-Pudding, and most delicious Custard.

COLMAN'S BRITISH CORN-FLOUR
Is the best article ever offered to the public.
Sold by all respectable Grocers, &c.
In 1lb., ½lb., and ¼lb. Packets.

TESTIMONIALS.
EDWIN LANKESTER, M.D., F.R.S., says:—
"Rice-Flour is Corn-Flour, and I regard this preparation of Messrs. Colman's as superior to anything of the kind now before the public."
SHERIDAN MUSPRAT, M.D., Professor at the Liverpool College of Chemistry, writes:—
"I can highly recommend it as a palatable and very digestible and nutritious food."

FINE FLAVOURED STRONG BEEF TEA at about 2½d. a pint.
ASK FOR LIEBIG COMPANY'S EXTRACT of MEAT, requiring Baron Liebig, the Inventor's, Signature on every jar, being the only guarantee of genuineness.

BEST FOOD for INFANTS.
"Resembling Mother's Milk as closely as possible."—Dr. H. Barker on Right Foods. "The Infant Prince thrives upon it as a Prince should."—Social Science Review. "Highly nourishing and easily digested."—Dr. Hassall. No Boiling or Straining required. Tins, 1s., 2s., 5s., and 10s.
Prepared by SAVORY and MOORE, New Bond-street, London.
Procurable of all Chemists and Italian Warehousemen.

IMPERFECT DIGESTION and ASSIMILATION, CONSUMPTION and WASTING.
SAVORY and MOORE'S PANCREATIC EMULSION and PANCREATINE are the most potent remedial agents. They are the only remedies yet known for effecting the digestion of Cod Liver Oil and preventing nausea when taking it, while they also efficiently supply the place of the oil when the stomach cannot tolerate it. These facts are now attested by the published records of numerous medical men, extracts from which accompany each bottle, price 2s. to 21s.
SAVORY and MOORE,
143, New Bond-street, London, and all Chemists.
NOTE.—SAVORY and MOORE'S name and trade mark on each bottle.

USE
GODDARD'S PLATE-POWDER
(NON-MERCURIAL).
For more than 20 years it has sustained an unrivalled reputation throughout the United Kingdom and Colonies as the BEST and SAFEST article for cleaning Plate.
Sold by Chemists, and Ironmongers, &c., in Boxes, 1s., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each, and by the Inventor, J. GODDARD, Chemist, Leicester.

KINAHAN'S LL. WHISKY DEPOT.
NOTICE.—KINAHAN and Co. have REMOVED to their new and spacious premises, No. 6A, GREAT TITCHFIELD STREET, OXFORD STREET, leading from Margaret Street, Regent Street, and Market Street, Oxford Street.
KINAHAN'S LL WHISKY.—This famous and most delicious old mellow spirit is the very
CREAM OF IRISH WHISKIES,
in quality unrivalled, perfectly pure, and more wholesome than the finest Cognac Brandy.
Can be obtained all over the kingdom, in the well-known sealed and labelled bottles, or in bond for exportation at the London Docks. Wholesale Agents to Messrs. Bass, Guinness, and Younger, and Dealers in Foreign Wines and Spirits.

ASTHMA.—DATURA TATULA.
"Of great efficacy in cases of Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis."—Dublin Journal of Medical Science. "The fumes cause no nausea, so that the most delicate lady may use the remedy. I have never known an instance in which relief was not obtained."—Letter from Gen. Alexander. Tins 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., and 18s. Cigars and Cigarettes, in boxes, 3s., 8s., and 15s. Pastilles for inhalation, boxes, 2s. 6d., 5s. and 10s.
SAVORY and MOORE, 143, New Bond-street, London.

CORNS and BUNIONS.—A gentleman, many years tormented with Corns, will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their complete removal in a short period, without pain or any inconvenience.—Forward address, on a stamped envelope, to F. Kingston, Esq., Church-street, Ware, Herts.

ILLUSTRATED WORKS FOR THE STUDENT AND GENERAL READER.
In cloth gilt, 6s. each; or, Three Vols., half calf, £2 10s.
CASSELL'S NEW POPULAR EDUCATOR.
Forming a Complete Educational Encyclopædia. Revised to the Present Date, with Numerous Additions.
In 8 Vols., cloth, 6s. and 7s 6d. each; or 4 Vols., half calf, £4.
CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED HISTORY of ENGLAND, from the Earliest Period of the Present Time. With about 2,000 Illustrations. Post 4to, 5,000 pp.
Toned Paper Edition, Vols. I. to V., cloth, each 9s.
In Two Vols., cloth, 30s.; half calf, 45s.; or half morocco, 50s.
CASSELL'S POPULAR NATURAL HISTORY. With 2,000 splendid Engravings and Tinted Plates. Crown 4to, 1,582 pages. With coloured Plates, 4 Vols., 42s.
In Imperial 8vo, cloth, £1 15s.; half morocco, £2 10s.
CASSELL'S ILLUSTRATED SHAKESPEARE Edited by CHARLES and MARY COWDEN CLARKE. With 500 Illustrations by Selous. Three Volumes, 2,168 pages.
, Full particulars of the above Works will be found in
CASSELL'S DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE, to be had of all Booksellers, or post free on application to the Publishers.
Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO YOUNG MEN.
Crown 8vo, cloth, price 3s. 6d.
THE YOUNG MAN in the BATTLE of LIFE. By Rev. DR. LANDELS.
"Suitable to present to a young man just leaving home to start in business life."—Bible Student.
Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

A NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO YOUNG WOMEN.
Crown 8vo, cloth, price 3s. 6d.
WOMAN, HER POSITION and POWER, by Rev. Dr. LANDELS.
Comprising essays on the duties of Woman, her influence, social position, &c.
Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

Now Ready, bound in cloth gilt, gilt edges, price 5s.,
WONDERS of ACOUSTICS. With over 100 Illustrations. Comprising a Popular Account of the Phenomena of Sound; describing its Effects, Propagation, Intensity, Velocity, Reflection, Resonance, and Quality, with Anecdotes and Legends, &c., &c.
Cassell, Petter, and Galpin, Ludgate-hill, E.C.

BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED PRESENT BOOK.—The first volume of THE ANIMAL WORLD, cloth back, pictorial boards, 2s. 6d.; or cloth, extra gilt, 5s.
The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals beg to announce that the circulation of their Journal has exceeded 26,000 copies each month.
Upwards of 600 of the principal newspapers of the United Kingdom have given favourable notices.
Nos. 1 to 15 are out, price 2d. each. May be had of all booksellers.

INVESTMENTS.
DIVIDENDS
10 to 20 PER CENT. ON OUTLAY.
Read SHARP'S INVESTMENT CIRCULAR (post free
This Month's Number now ready.
It contains all the Best-paying and Safest Stock and Share Investments.
CAPITALISTS, SHAREHOLDERS, TRUSTEES,
Will find the above Circular a safe, valuable, and reliable guide.
Messrs. SHARP and Co, Stock and Share Brokers,
33, Poultry, London (Established 1852).
Bankers: London and Westminster, Lothbury, E.C.

COAL.—GEORGE J. COCKERELL and COMPANY, Established 1838.—Best Coals only.—Cash, 25s. G. J. C. and Co. sell no other than the best Wallsend Coals, which they believe to be the cleanest, the most durable, and the cheapest in the end for all domestic purposes. Vendors to Her Majesty, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh.—13, Cornhill; Eaton Wharf, Pimlico (office next to the Grosvenor Hotel); Purfleet Wharf Earl-street, Blackfriars; Sunderland Wharf, Peckham; Durham Wharf, Wandsworth (Office, 108, High-street); High-level Station, Crystal Palace; also at Brighton at local prices.

COALS. — LEA and CO.'S PRICES. — Hetton or Lambton Wall's-end, by screw steamers and railway, 24s.; Hartlepool, 23s.; best Wigan, 21s.; best Silkstone, 21s.; new Silkstone, 20s.; Clay-cross, 22s. and 19s.; Primrose, 19s; Barnsley, 18s.; best Derby, 18s.; Kitchen, 17s.; Cobbles, 16s.; Hartley, 17s.; Nuts, 15s.; Tanfield Moor, 20s.: small, 12s. Coke, 14s. per 12 sacks. Net cash. Delivered thoroughly screened. Depots. Highbury and Highgate, N.; Kingsland, N.E.; Beauvoir Wharf, Kingsland-road; Great Northern Railway Stations, King's cross and Holloway; and 4 and 5 Wharves, Regent's-park-basin. No Agents.

HORNIMAN'S TEA
the *Purest, Strongest, Cheapest, and Best.*
Prices, 2s. 4d.—2s. 8d.—3s.—3s. 4d. & 3s. 8d. lb.
Genuine packets signed *W. H. & J. Horniman & Co.*
Original Importers of the Pure Tea, free from mineral powde
2,538 AGENTS ARE APPOINTED—CHEMISTS, &c., in the COUNTRY—CONFECTIONERS in LONDON.

QUININE.
The many and expensive forms in which this well-known medicine is administered, too often precludes its adoption as a general tonic. The success which has attended "Waters' Quinine Wine" arises from its careful preparation by the manufacturer. Each wineglass full contains sufficient Quinine to make it an excellent restorative to the weak. It behoves the public to see that they have Waters Quinine Wine, for the result of Chancery proceedings, a short time since, elicited the fact that one unprincipled imitator did not use Quinine in the manufacture of his wine. All grocers sell Waters' Quinine Wine.
WATERS and WILLIAMS, Original Makers, Worcester House, 34, Eastcheap, London. Agents—E. Lewis and Co. Worcester.

Cheap edition, crown 8vo, 3s. 6d., cloth, post free,
MEMORIALS of the REV. WILLIAM BULL, of Newport Pagnell. Compiled chiefly from his own letters, and those of his friends,—Newton, Cowper, and Thornton: 1738—1814. By his Grandson, the Rev. JOSIAH BULL, M.A.
"Filled with interesting matter from beginning to end,—amongst the most interesting biographies of our day."—Evangelical Magazine.
Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row, London, E.C.

Now ready, price 5s., post free,
LIGHTS and SHADOWS in the LIFE of KING DAVID, and their Lessons for our own Time. By Rev. CHARLES VINCE.
This work is beautifully printed and bound; and is, in every way, most suitable for a present to Christian friends.
Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row, London, E.C.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY THE REV. T. T. LYNCH.
Post 8vo, cloth, price 6s., post free,
THE MORNINGTON LECTURE.
"These discourses are throughout poems more than sermons, and possess a lyric charm which reminds us of the extemporaneous effusions of some accomplished musician. The book sparkles with bright fancies and thoughts large-hearted and strongly put."—British Quarterly.
Paper covers, price 2s., post free,
A GROUP of SIX SERMONS.
"These sermons abound in fresh and suggestive thoughts, parables, and figures, remarkable for qualntness as well as for beauty."—Pulpit Analyst.
Cheap edition, price 4s. 6d., post free,
THREE MONTHS' MINIS TRY: a Series of Sermons.
"In these discourses there is much subtle and refined thought; and we may add, much subtle and refined truth."—British Quarterly.
Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster-row, London, E.C.

Now ready, price 2s., post free,
THE SUBORDINATE DIVINITY of the MAN of SORROWS.
"Like 'Ecce Homo,' 'Ecce Deus,' and some others, this book indicates a tendency of mind in the age, which, wisely directed, may lead to most blessed results. The work may be read profitably by anybody."—Journal of Sacred Literature.
"We commend it to the careful perusal of well-instructed ministers and laymen."—Independent.
Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster row, London, E.C.

Third Thousand, price 3s. 6d., elegantly bound,
NONE BUT CHRIST; or, the Sinner's only Hope. By the Rev. ROBERT BOYD, D.D.
"We are delighted with this book. It is after our own heart. Here we have the Gospel set forth in all its simplicity, not with wisdom of words and embellishments of chilling rhetoric, but after the fashion of the Lord of preachers, with many a similie and instructive parable. We were never more hearty in commending any book; its theme, its style, its spirit, all win our admiration."—Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, in "The Sword and the Trowel."
London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co.

Handsomely printed, post 8vo, price 7s. 6d. a volume, or complete sets, 17 vols., 24 4s. 0d.
THE COLLECTED WORKS of the late Rev. J. A. JAMES.
London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 32, Paternoster-row.

Just ready, the Eleventh Edition, 44th Thousand, in bright cloth, price 3s. 6d., and in gilt cloth, gilt edges, making a very elegant book, 4s. 6d.; kept also in morocco elegant,
THE YOUNG MAN'S FRIEND and GUIDE THROUGH LIFE to IMMORTALITY. By the Rev. JOHN ANGELL JAMES.
"This is a noble contribution to the welfare of the nation. The Author's remarks on diligence and indolence, method and disorder, despatch and punctuality, are invaluable."—Christian Witness.
"We earnestly recommend parents to buy these short, powerful, and very cheap Addresses, and put them into their sons' hands."—Christian Times.
Just ready, the Twelfth Edition, 45th Thousand, in bright cloth, price 4s., and in gilt cloth, gilt edges, a very elegant book, 5s.; kept also in morocco elegant,
FEMALE PIETY; or, the Young Woman's Friend and Guide Through Life to Immortality. By the Rev. JOHN ANGELL JAMES.
"As we have read this work, a powerful feeling has crept over our minds that surely there is a blessing in it. If our fair readers will take our advice, there will not be one of them without a copy of this invaluable monitor."—Evangelical Magazine.
In a review of the seventh chapter, the Christian Witness adds:—"The words are as apples of gold set in pictures of silver."
London: Hamilton, Adams, and Co., 32, Paternoster-row.

Published by Jarrold and Sons, Paternoster-row, London
650 pp., crown 8vo, price 7s. 6d.
DR. REED'S SYSTEMATIC HISTORY. A Manual of British and Foreign History for Colleges, Schools, and Families.
Part I. CHRONOLOGICAL, GENEALOGICAL and STATISTICAL TABLES.
Part II. THE BIOGRAPHY of MODERN UNIVERSAL HISTORY.
Part III. THE FACTS of BRITISH HISTORY SPECIALLY DEVELOPED.
Apply to Hurst-court, Ore, Hastings, for Prospectus or specimen copy on approval.

STATIONERY, PRINTING, ACCOUNT BOOKS, and every requisite for the Counting-house. Qualities and prices will compare advantageously with any house in the trade. The Forms and Account Books required under "The Companies' Acts, 1862 and 1867," kept in stock. Share Certificates Engraved and Printed. Official Seals Designed and Executed.—ASH and FLINT, 49, Fleet-street, City, E.C., and opposite the Railway Stations, London bridge, S.E.

THE UPPER AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS,

BECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.—19TH YEAR.

(Near the Peckham Rye Station, South London Line—Terminus, London Bridge or Victoria.)

Conducted by JOHN YEATS, LL.B., &c., University of Glasgow.

WILL REOPEN, JANUARY 16TH, 1871.

Pupils are received from the commencement of their Ninth Year: they enter the Upper School on attaining their Fourteenth, or on proving themselves able to do the work of the Higher Classes. The fees include the use of Books and Stationery.

Every boy is, as far as possible, well grounded in English, made to write a hand fit for business, and trained to be quick at accounts. French and German are taught by native Masters, and spoken by the Principal. No pains are spared to insure these being *living* languages in the Schools. Special teachers attend for the elements of Science; for Mechanical, Geometrical, and Architectural Drawing. The premises are spacious and airy: PECKHAM RYE COMMON is near, and available for cricket, football, &c.; the CRYSTAL PALACE is within an hour's walk.

Excellent accommodation is provided for Foreigners; also for Young Men desirous of private study.

N.B.—The NATURAL HISTORY of COMMERCE. By Dr. YEATS. Pp. 436. 5s. Cassell and Co. To be followed early, by TECHNICAL HISTORY.

LEISURE HOUR TOPICS

For 1871. Price Sixpence Monthly.

THE JANUARY PART WILL OPEN WITH A

NEW TALE BY KATHARINE S. MACQUOID,

Author of "Forgotten by the World,"

ROOKSTONE HALL;

OR, THE

Fortunes and Misfortunes of the Wolferston Family.

Roger Kiffin's Ward. By W. H. G. Kingston.
Harry Windham: a Tale of Thirty Years' War. By J. de Liefde.
What I Saw in America. By the Editor. With Illustrations
Pictures of Geologic Periods. By Principal Dawson, of Canada.
Personal Recollections. By John Timbs.
The Tombs of Thebes. By Howard Hopley.
French, German, and Scandinavian Sketches.
Working-class Sketches. By the "Journeyman Engineer."
Ghost and Ghost Lore.
A Midland Tour. By the Author of "Sketches of Naval and Military Adventure"
Natural History Gossip. By J. Keast Lord, F.Z.S.
With Engravings by Eminent Artists.
London: 56, Paternoster row.

SUNDAY AT HOME

PROGRAMME for 1871.

Sam Baxter's New Year's Day. By the Author of "Quality Fogg's Old Ledger."
Grace Franksen. By the Author of "The Foundling of the Ferns."
Daily Thoughts of Christ. By Lord Kinnaird.
The Life of David, as reflected in the Psalms. By the Rev. Alexander Maclaren, of Manchester.
Under the Mulberry Tree. By Mrs Prosser.
Marianne Rosenbaum: a Tale of Jewish Life. By the Rev. Dr Edersheim.
Sundays at Northcourt. Second Series. By G. E. Sargent, Author of the "Chronicles of an Old Manor House."
Morals of Mottoes.
Cousin Mabel's Note Book: Religious Depression and its Causes—Home Sundays—The Unsafe Confidante—and other Papers. By Miss E. J. Whately.
The Gospels and Modern Criticism. By Rev. Dr. Roberts.
Devotional Papers By the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.
Occasional Papers. By Author of "The Harvest of a Quiet
Portraits and Biographies.
Sacred Music and Original Poetry.
Stories for the Young, Scripture Enigmas, &c.
Sixpence Monthly.
Religious Tract Society: 56, Paternoster-row.

Now ready,

THE LIFE of OUR LORD and SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST; also the Lives of the APOSTLES and EVANGELISTS. By JOHN FLEETWOOD, D.D. With copious Notes from recent and living Biblical Scholars. Upwards of 300 Woodcuts, and sixty-seven highly-finished full-page Chromatic Engravings.

Price, cloth extra, gilt, 38s. 6d.; half morocco, 42s.

27,500 copies sold. On toned paper, in Two Vols., 4to, 2,500 pp., handsomely bound in cloth. Price One Guinea.

KITTO'S FAMILY BIBLE. Illustrated with upwards of 800 Engravings. With Copious Original Notes on the History, Geography, Natural History, Literature, and Antiquities of the Sacred Scriptures; and Additional Chapters by the Rev. T. BIRKS, M.A., Author of "The Bible and Modern Thought."

*** A Copy will be presented to any person procuring Ten Subscribers, and sent carriage free to any railway station in England. Testimonials and Illustrated Specimens free. Bound Copies in Stock.

TO VILLAGE PREACHERS AND HEADS OF FAMILIES.

THE CLASS and the DESK (20,000 Vols. sold.)—This original work consists of Two Series. The Old Testament contains 144 Prepared Lessons. The New Testament contains 120 Prepared Lessons, with 50 Sunday-school Addresses. Both Series are equally applicable to the Class in schools, the Desk in addresses, and the Pulpit in regular discourses. Each Series is complete in 12 Nos. at 2d.; or One Vol., cloth bevelled, 3s. Post free.

OLD ENGLAND. (40,000 Copies sold.)—A Pictorial Museum of Regal, Ecclesiastical, Baronial, Municipal, and Popular Antiquities, from the Earliest Period to the Present Time. With nearly 3,000 Illustrations, including forty folio-sized Coloured Engravings. Edited by CHARLES KNIGHT, Esq. In Two Vols, handsome cloth elegant, gilt, £2 12s.

THE THEORY and PRACTICE of COMPOSITION for SCHOOLS and PRIVATE STUDENTS. By the late WILLIAM HUNTER, LL.D. In Four Parts. Part I. Treatment of Terms and of Proposition. Part II. Treatment of Modifications and of Sentences. Part III. Treatment of Argument and Persuasion. Part IV. Treatment of the Qualities of Style, and of the different kinds of Composition. 1 Vol., cloth lettered, 1s. 6d.

James Sangster and Co., 31, Paternoster-row, and all Booksellers.

New Periodical, 3d. monthly,

SUNDAY MORNING, consisting of Original and Selected Articles of a Devotional, Evangelical, Practical, Brief, Comprehensive, and Thoughtful. Royal 8vo, toned paper, handsomely printed.

Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., and all Booksellers.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.

GRANTS OF TRACTS.

CITY and Town Missions, Scripture Readers, Bible Women, and others engaged in the circulation of Divine Truth, are supplied with TRACTS at the rate of 20s. worth for 7s. 6d.

When applicants are unable to meet any portion of the expense, grants are voted by the Committee without payment.

Applications to be made in writing to

THE SECRETARY,
56, Paternoster-row, London, E.C.

NEW PUBLICATIONS,

FOR THE NEW YEAR.

"I WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR 1871." Congratulations, Retrospections, Anticipations. A neat little book, in royal 32mo, printed on Tinted Paper, and suited for inclosure in letters, and general distribution. 9d. per dozen.

NEW WORKS SUITED FOR PRESENTS.

SPANISH PICTURES, Drawn with Pen and Pencil. By the Author of "Swiss Pictures, Drawn with Pen and Pencil." With Illustrations by GUSTAVE DORÉ, and other eminent Artists. Imperial 8vo. 8s., handsomely bound, gilt edges.

THE PICTURE-GALLERY of the NATIONS: a Description of the Principal Peoples in the World. Illustrated with 160 fine Engravings. Small 4to, printed on Toned Paper, 6s., handsomely bound, gilt edges. Designed for the Young.

ORIGINAL FABLES. By Mrs. PROSSER, Author of "The Awdries and their Friends," &c. Numerous Engravings by Ernest Griset, Harrison Weir, Noel Humphreys, and others. 16mo, 4s. 6d., handsomely bound.

VIOLET FLETCHER'S HOME WORK. Engravings. Fcap. 8vo, 2s. 6d., boards; 3s., extra boards.

ANIMAL LIFE in EUROPE.—With numerous Coloured Engravings. Demy 4to. 3s. 6d. in illustrated cover.

COUSIN MABEL'S EXPERIENCES.—Sketches of Religious Life in England. By Miss E. J. WHATELY, Author of "The Life and Correspondence of Archbishop Whately." Crown 8vo. 4s. boards.

ST. PAUL: His Life, Labours, and Epistles. From the French of Felix Bungener. Crown 8vo. 4s. 6d. boards.

LITTLE SERENA in a STRANGE LAND. By the Author of "Christie Redfern's Troubles." Engravings. Fcap. 8vo. 2s. boards; 2s. 6d. extra gilt edges.

MYRA SHERWOOD'S CROSS, and HOW SHE BORE IT. Engravings. Crown 8vo. 3s. 6d. bevelled boards; 4s. extra boards, gilt edges.

The Religious Tract Society, 56, Paternoster-row, and 164, Piccadilly. Sold by the Booksellers

THE CHILD'S COMPANION and JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR. (First issued, 1824.) Published Monthly. Price One Penny. Numerous Fine Engravings. The Articles, in Prose and Verse, are written by those who are deeply interested in the welfare of the young, and are adapted alike to children in the gentleman's mansion and the cottage home. Although entitled "The Child's Companion," a large portion of its contents adapts it for youth up to the age of fourteen. The new series is embellished with superior large engravings. With the number for January, 1871, will be given a coloured engraving of the Princess of Wales.

THE CHILD'S COMPANION ANNUAL.

The Twelve Numbers of this Magazine for the Year 1870 form a handsome Volume, and contain eighty-five superior Wood Engravings. 1s. 6d., illustrated coloured cover; 2s. boards; 2s. 6d. extra boards, gilt edges.

The Religious Tract Society, 56, Paternoster-row, and 164, Piccadilly. Sold by the Booksellers.

CABINET EDITION OF BUCKLE'S HISTORY OF CIVILISATION,

In 3 vols., crown 8vo, price 24s. cloth, or 42s. bound in tree-calf by Rivière,

HISTORY of CIVILISATION in ENGLAND and FRANCE, SPAIN and SCOTLAND. By HENRY THOMAS BUCKLE. Fifth Edition of the entire Work, complete in Three Volumes.

London: Longmans, Green, and Co., Paternoster-row.

Just published, price 7s. 6d., cloth, 8vo,

ALEXANDRA: a Christmas Gift-Book. The Paper for which has been presented, and the Volume itself Contributed, Drawn, Engraved, Printed, Bound, and Published for the Benefit of the ALEXANDRA ORPHANAGE for INFANTS. Edited by THOMAS ARCHER, Esq., with Contributions and Illustrations by the leading Authors and Artists of the day.

London: James Clarke and Co., 13, Fleet-street; James Nisbet and Co., Berners-street.

BOOKS BOUGHT, to any amount, and the utmost price given in cash, saving the delay, uncertainty, and expense of auction, by a second-hand Bookseller, thirty years established. Catalogues of Twenty Thousand Volumes gratis.

N.B.—Manuscript Sermons, 6d. each.

T. HILLARD, 88, Ludgate-hill, London.

Half-a-Crown Monthly,

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW.

Theological, Literary, and Social.

CONTENTS FOR JANUARY.

1. Imperial Federalism. By the Author of "Ginx's Baby."
2. The Debts of Theology to Secular Movements. By the Rev J. Ll. Davies.
3. The Mistake of Honest Democrats. By W. R. Greg.
4. National Defences. By R. R. Noel.
5. The Present Relations of Physical Science to Mental Philosophy. By Professor Calderwood.
6. The War and General Culture: Conversations. By the Author of "Friends in Council." Nos. VI, VII.
7. Prayers for the Dead. By the Rev. M. Maccoll.
8. Music and orals. By the Rev. H. R. Haweis. Part II.
9. The Church of England and Dissenters. By the Rev. J. Baldwin Brown.
10. [illegible] Rent. By William Stigand.

Strahan and Co., 56, Ludgate-hill.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE.—Monthly, One Shilling.—JANUARY, 1871.

CONTENTS.

New Arrivals. By an Absentee of Several Years. A Fragment of Autobiography. By R. H. Horne, Author of "Orion," &c.
The Spectre. By William Sawyer.
Kaulbach. By the Countess Von Bothmer.
A Day's Deer-stalking on the Black Mosa.
On Some Prayers and Promises to Pray. By Robert Maldon.
Honiton Lace.
Tyburniana. By W. Clark Russell.
Studies for the Times. No. II.—On Things in General. By a County Member.
New Zealand.—A Glance at the Maori.
Calais. By Percy Fitzgerald.
Within and Without. A Series of Mosaics from the City. By D. Morier Evans. No. I.—The Skeleton Equipage.
Malvina. (Continued.) By H. Sutherland Edwards. Chaps. XXXV. to XL.
Table Talk.

London: W. H. Allen and Co., 13, Waterloo place.

MAGAZINE ANNOUNCEMENTS, for 1871.

On FRIDAY will be published,

THE

BRITISH QUARTERLY REVIEW,

No. CV., for JANUARY, price 6s. Annual subscription, including postage, 21s., prepaid.

CONTENTS.

1. The American Press.
2. The Royal Commission on International Coinage.
3. The Malmesbury Correspondence.
4. The Exploration in Palestine.
5. Early Sieges of Paris
6. Nonconformity in Wales.
7. Tregelles' Greek New Testament.
8. The War of 1870.
9. Contemporary Literature

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

NEW SERIES OF THE SUNDAY MAGAZINE.

Now ready, price 6d., the First Number of

THE PREACHER'S LANTERN: a Monthly Magazine for the Pulpit and Pew. Edited by the Revs. E. PAXTON HOOD and D. LONGWILL, M.A. Post free for Six Stamps. Annual Subscription, 6s., prepaid.

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

"OLD MERRY'S" MAGAZINE FOR THE YOUNG.

Now ready, price 4d., Illustrated, the JANUARY Number of

MERRY and WISE. Edited by "Old MERRY." The arrangements for 1871 include numerous HANDSOME PRIZES every month for the best Answers Puzzles, besides two splendid Presents to Subscribers, details respecting which will be found in the JANUARY Number, post free for Four Stamps.

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

Now ready, price 3d., the JANUARY Number of

THE BIBLE STUDENT.

CONTENTS:—An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament, Chapter I., by the Rev. M. J. Evans, B.A.—King Saul: a Wasted Life, by Rev W. McCall, M.A.—Biblical Interpretation, Chapter I., by Bradford K. Pierce, D.D.—"The Holy Child Jesus": Notes and Suggestive Hints, Original and Selected, by a Bible Class Teacher—The Ark and the Life, Chapters I. and II., by a Layman—The Ark and Dagon, by Rev Francis L. Patton—"Scripture by Scripture," by J. S. Jewell, M.D.—The Inquiry Class—Thoughts for Spare Moments—Our Library.

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

Circulation, upwards of 20,000 monthly,

THE MOTHER'S FRIEND.

JANUARY Number is now ready, Price One Penny, with a Full-page Illustration.

"Has our hearty approval, and best wishes for its extensive circulation."—Baptist Magazine.

"A very suitable work to circulate among our cottage homes."—Literary World.

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

Price Sixpence Monthly.

THE EVANGELICAL MAGAZINE

for JANUARY contains a fine Portrait of the Rev ROBERT MOFFATT, the distinguished Missionary from Africa.

The contributors for 1871 will include the Revs. T. Binney, J. S. Bright, R. Bruce, M.A., R. W. Dale, LL.D., H. J. Gamble, J. C. Harrison, G. S. Johnson, J. Kelly, E. Mannering, J. G. Miall, Enoch Mellor, D.D., A. Reed, B.A., W. Roberts, B.A., W. M. Statham, J. Stoughton, D.D., P. J. Turquand.

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 27, Paternoster-row.

COMPLETE SERVICE OF SONG FOR CHURCH OR HOME.

THE MEMORIAL HALLELUJAH: a Collection of 375 Tunes in 100 different [illegible] Tunes for all the new Hymns, Supplements, "Te Deum," "Benedictus," &c. The most complete book published. Price 2s. limp cloth, or 3s. 6d. with Portrait and Memoir of Rev. J. J. Waite.

A Specimen Copy will be sent to any Minister or Organist Free by Post for [illegible] Stamps.

London: J. Haddon and Co., 3, Bouverie-street, E.C.

Published by ARTHUR MIALL, at No. 18, [illegible], London; and [illegible] office-court, Fleet-street, London. — Wednesday, December 28, 1870.